Stelling

AVERY® PV119

Henry G. Stelling Family
by Miriam Calvert Stelling
March 1991

"HG"

Henry G. Stelling (Mr. Stelling was always called by his initials "~~H.J.~~") and his wife Alice purchased 70 acres on Hollenbeck Road from the Hollenbecks around 1900. They had two children, Dorothy, born in 1905 and Donald born in 1908. Mr. Stelling cleaned the land, and planted a new orchard. Since the soil was an alluvial fan, from Stevens Creek over flowing its banks, over many years, on 30 acres, of the best soil, he planted to cherries, on the other 40 acres comice and Winter Nellie pears were interplanted with walnuts. The cherries were interplanted with peaches. A peach bears within 5 years, and, therfore brought a cash crop to help carry the ranch. They lived in the Hollenbeck house for some years, but as money became more available they remodeled the house and made it into a palatial Mediterranean style house, which became a meeting place for the "rich and famous. Including the captain of the 'Macon'- a dirigible based at Moffet Field, which later went down off the coast of ~~Santa Barbara.~~ Big Sur. Mrs. Stelling had 3 acres of garden, with large oaks surrounding the house. Two flocks of peacocks were always strutting around or nesting in the oaks, always warning of any visitors night or day. The address was Sunnyvale, but the school district was Cupertino.

In 1926 they had a spectacular fire. The explosion that preceded the fire was heard as far away as Los Gatos. Donald's father had purchased a quantity of paint from camp Fremont in Palo Alto were it was dismantled several years after World War I. It was determined that that was what had caused the explosion and fire, which destroyed the packing house, blacksmith shop, garage, and homes. The house was saved, by some miracle.

Since Mr. Stelling was of an inventive mind a new packing house was built with his own design for sorting and packing cherries. A new dehydrator was built to dry the walnuts, and a well equipped black smith shop was installed. Donald's Model A touring car was destroyed, which he had just paid $100 for, with his own hard-earned money.

With the maturing cherry trees, came a problem of marketing the crop. It was a necessity, in order for the perishable cherries to reach the lucrative markets of Chicago, New York and Boston that they be refrigerated in freight cars. It was due to that necessity that the California Fruit exchange was

formed, a cooperative for shipping and marketing fruits. Mr. Stelling was instrumental in that endeavor.

Donald's father died a untimely death at age 61. He had retired when he was 40 years old to enjoy a full 40 years of life. He was a big hunter and fisherman and had a gun club at Calusa. He and Mrs. Stelling had a summer house at Aptos, and each week end the 8 passenger Hupmobile was loaded with groceries, friends and the maid to go over the hill to enjoy the coast. Before that time they had a cottage on the hill at Capitola, but the house at Aptos was built to entertain and sleep relatives as well as friends. The Stellings were wonderful hosts and their house was used by the men to play cards and pool in the basement, and the women for tea parties, planning weddings, etc. Mrs. Stellings maiden name was Helwig. She was born and raised in Bloomfield-a gold-mining town above Nevada City. She met Mr. Stelling when she attended San Jose Normal School. Mrs. Stelling was one founder of the Cupertino De Oro Club and very active in San Jose Eastern States and Amaranth. Mr. Stelling was a 32nd degree Mason, a Shriner, and a Knight Templar. (Yvonne Jacobson told me that her dad told her Donald's father was buried in his Shriner uniform. I have no recollection of that)

Dorothy was very art minded, as was her mother. Dorothy went to Castelleja and then to San Jose State. She majored in art and was very good in water colors of flower studies. For a few years she taught art at Fremont High School. She married Emile Garastorday, whose family had a French laundry in San Jose He tale shortened his name to Gorday. He died very young and Dorothy never remarried.

Donald went to University of California at Davis and was well prepared to run the ranch after his fathers death in 1934, the year we were married. Donald build a early California style home at the other end of the ranch, and that is where we lived with our one darling daughter, Joanne, who was born in 1939.

We had a wonderful life until the start of Sunnyvale greed in 1960. They annexed us to their city on assessed valuation, condemmed our well, which pumped 1200 to 1500 gallons a minute for the use of the City. It was a very unfair manuver, that left us no other choice but entertain offers from real estate people, who were driving us almost crazy. Donald and I, with the help of our neighbors, formed the "Rural Life League" to oppose just that kind of move from Sunnyvale. Obviously, we were not sucessful.

I had graduated from the U. of C. at Berkeley in political science. At Berkeley I formed the Chi Omega sorority. My first political activity was with Wendel Willke for President, his support steming from U.C. I was chairman for Willke Volunteers in the County and from then on, even though

we usually lost, any spare time was taken up by politics. Our home was the Republican meeting place for Cupertino, Los Altos, Mt. View and Sunnyvale. We formed the Republican Assembly, which is still very active at that time it was very difficult to find more than a handfull of our party. I also was chairman of our area for Red Cross Community Chest and Chairman of rural Santa Clara County for the blood bank when it started. I was on the board of directors of the Santa Clara County Red Cross and on the board of the Home of benevolence, now Eastfield Meng Quong. Any community effort to raise money in the San Jose Hospital, O'Connor Hospital, we were always involved.

One of our main efforts was to elect Richard Nixon when he ran for Senate-Governor-President. In retrospect we might have split our time in more rewarding efforts. Our reward was the many friends we made, which are still some of my best.

After leaving our beloved home Donald bought a citrus grove on Exeter. I used to live there, so it was not very satisfactory. Even after 25 years, my roots are still on the property off of Fremont Rd. Mary Avenue paved over my garden and memories.

I neglected to say that the reason Donald's parents left Germany was to avoid the draft in that county. They went to Missouri and crossed the plains with a party made up in St. Louis. Their home was Hamburg in Germany where Stelling is a very common name.

They were devout Lutherans. They spent a great deal of time going to and from San Jose in order to keep up their church activities. After their children were raised, they moved to San Jose near the Alameda where the church was located. The sons continued the ranching activity and one lived on Stelling Rd. I think it was John.

The Stelling Family on picnic at Capitola-By-The-Sea, 1908

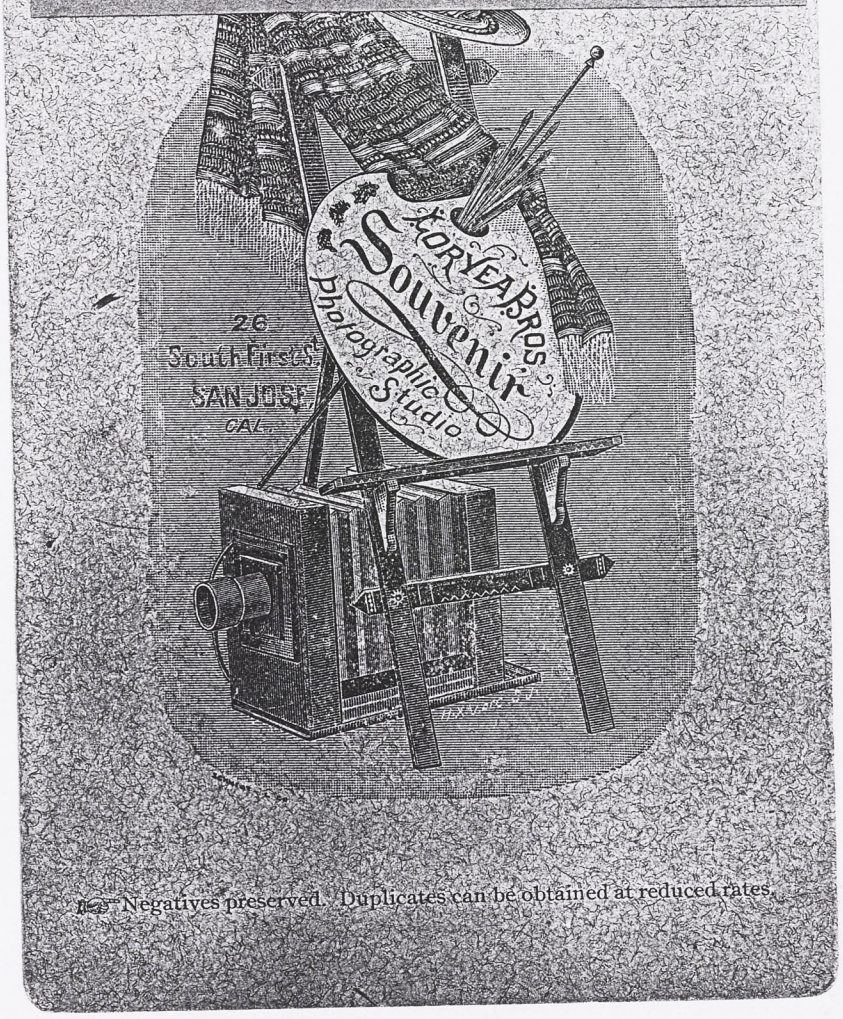
John Stelling, father of William Christian Stelling, grandfather of Gladys Stelling Green. Born 1824, died 1905

Stelling 1308
10 x S. 12 & 14
San Jose

John Stelling Father of
William Christian Stelling
Grandfather of Gladys Stelling
Green

Born 1824
died 1905

Louisa Stephens Stelling
Grandmother of Carl Leroy L, Gladys
and Raymond Stelling
wife of John Stelling



☞ Negatives preserved. Duplicates can be obtained at reduced rates.

Louisa Stephens Stelling - grandmother of Carl, Lloyd, Gladeys and Raymond Stelling
wife of John Stelling

STELLING

written by Miriam Calvert Stelling 2/91

John and Louise Stelling came to Cupertino in the 1850s after having a brick making business in San Francisco. Besides being an orchardist, they also had a tree nursery where Blackberry Farm is now. They had 5 children: John, Ed, Henry, and two girls.

Henry Stelling had a ranch on Hollenbeck Road in Sunnyvale. Ed Stelling raised oranges in Tulare county, and John Stelling prunes in Gilroy. Henry was married to Alice Helwig, who was born and raised in the Gold Country, above Nevada City at Bloomfield, which is now a state park. They had two children, Donald and Dorothy.

Henry Stelling gained a prominence in agriculture. He helped to form the California Fruit Exchange, a marketing cooperative. He was one of the first directors of that organization and served on many community boards, including being one of the 1st trustees of the Fremont Union High School District. He was also on the first board of freeholders to prepare a charter for Santa Clara County. He was very active in fraternal circles, being a Mason, Knight Templar, and a Shriner. He died in 1934 at the age of 61 years.

Donald Stelling was born in 1908. He attended U. C. Davis and married Miriam Calvert in 1934. They had one daughter, Joanne. He took over his father's ranch, and was very active in the California Fruit Exchange, serving on its board of directors. He was president of the Santa Clara County Cherry Growers Association. He was active in the Republican Party, and served as the chairman of the Santa Clara County Republican Central Committee. He was also a member of the Cupertino Grammar School Board.

I have a picture of Donald's father, Donald, and many of Joanne.

97.24.3 Dorothy and Donald Stelling

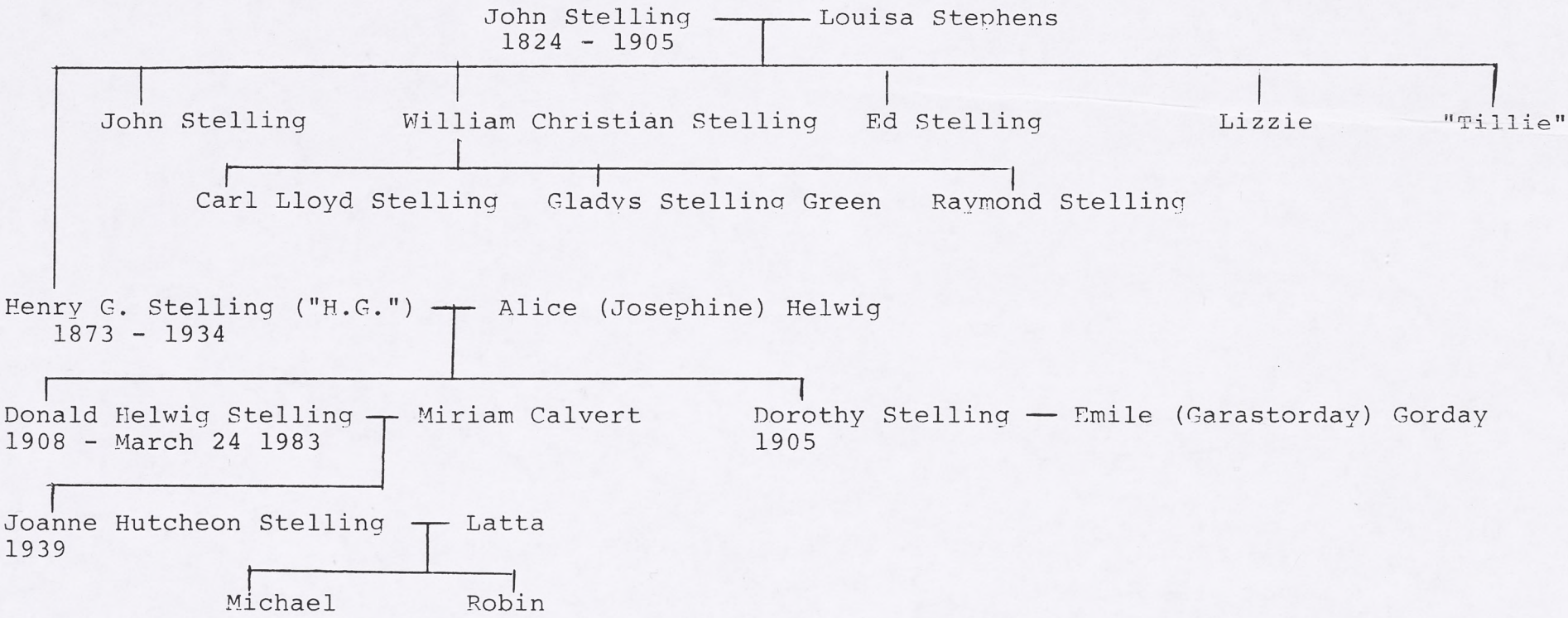
97.24.1 Josephene Alice Stelling

"Aunt Jo" - Dorothy and Don's mother.
Photo by Bushnell Photo Studio, San Francisco, CA.

97.24.2 Henry "H.J." Stelling ca. 1927

Bushnell Photo Studio, San Francisco, CA

DOROTHY STELLING


John Stelling
1824 - 1905
Louisa Stephens
John Stelling
William Christian Stelling
Ed Stelling
Lizzie
"Tillie"
Carl Lloyd Stelling
Gladys Stelling Green
Raymond Stelling
Henry G. Stelling ("H.G.")
1873 - 1934
Alice (Josephine) Helwig
Donald Helwig Stelling
1908 - March 24 1983
Miriam Calvert
Dorothy Stelling
1905
Emile (Garastorday) Gorday
Joanne Hutcheon Stelling
1939
Latta
Michael
Robin

6/97 CMS

Stelling & Helwig:

Henry G. ("H.J.") Stelling of Cupertino married Josephene Alice Helwig. Alice was born and raised in Bloomfield, a gold-mining town north of Nevada City. She attended San Jose Normal School and was a founder of the De Oro Club and active in the San Jose Eastern Star.

"H.J." and Alice purchased 70 acres on Hollenbeck Road around 1900 from the Hollenbeck family. "H.J." planted 30 acres in cherries, interplanted with peaches. The other 40 acres were planted in pears and walnuts. "H.J." was instrumental in forming the California Fruit Exchange, a cooperative for shipping and marketing fruits.

Alice and Henry Stelling had two children. Dorothy, born in 1905, and Donald, born in 1908.

The Stelling family lived in the Hollenbeck house for some years then remodeled it into a palatial Mediterranean-style house which became a meeting place for the rich and famous. Alice had 30 acres of garden, with large oaks surrounding the home. Peacocks nested in the oaks and warned of visitors day or night.

"H.J." Stelling died in 1934 at the age of 61 years, the same year son Donald married Miriam Calvert of Cupertino.

From the papers of Miriam Stelling - Cupertino Museum.

OBITUARIES

Miriam Calvert Stelling, saw valley's fruitful heyday

Was lady, historian, volunteer, activist

BY ELISE BANDUCCI
Mercury News Staff Writer

The Santa Clara Valley of sweet-smelling orchards and expansive ranches has lost a keeper of its history. Miriam Calvert Stelling, who was born into one of the area's pioneer agricultural families and married into another, died Wednesday of complications from a fall in August. She was 87.

Born in Cupertino to William and Annie Calvert, partners in the old Cupertino Store (when there was only one store in town), Mrs. Stelling was devoted to preserving the area's history. An active community volunteer, she was a docent at the Cupertino and Saratoga historical museums and a member of the historical societies in both cities.

"She taught me to have a deep, deep respect for the Valley of Heart's Delight and where we came from," said granddaughter Robin Latta-Lyssenko, 31.

Along with her late husband, Donald Stelling, Mrs. Stelling was also a prominent Republican and active in state and local politics.

In the early 1930s, the Stellings built their home among 70 acres of cherries on what is today Fremont Avenue near the Cupertino-Sunnyvale line. Donald Stelling — a descendant of the family for whom Stelling Road in Cupertino is named — ran the ranch, and Mrs. Stelling ran the household.

"She was always a lady, completely and utterly," said daughter Joan Stelling, 60. "If she was stressing inside, she would remain calm . . . and hold herself together upright and proud in any situation, and always with a sense of humor."

Miriam Calvert Stelling

- **Born:** Oct. 19, 1911 in Cupertino.
- **Died:** Oct. 6, 1999 in Los Gatos.
- **Survived by:** Daughter, Joan Stelling of Campbell; and grandchildren Robin Latta-Lyssenko of San Mateo and Michael Latta of Sacramento.
- **Services:** Memorial 2 p.m. Oct. 11 at Darling-Fischer Chapel of the Hills, Los Gatos.
- **Memorial:** Donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

That meant that when her husband strategized with state and local politicians, she was the consummate hostess. But she was also passionate about Republican issues and rolled up her sleeves behind the scenes.

"If she believed in a cause, she would go full tilt for it," said Joan Stelling.

Mrs. Stelling also took pride in her family ranch and what it produced.

"When you grow cherries in the valley, it's like nothing you've ever seen in the supermarket," remembers Joan Stelling, who packed the fruit for the family label during the summers. "What you see in the market today, we'd throw away."

Mrs. Stelling attended San Jose State University for a few years before earning a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from the University of California-Berkeley. "She wanted an education, and my grandmother wanted it for her," said Joan Stelling.

> "When you grow cherries in the valley, it's like nothing you've ever seen in the supermarket."
>
> — *Joan Stelling, her daughter*

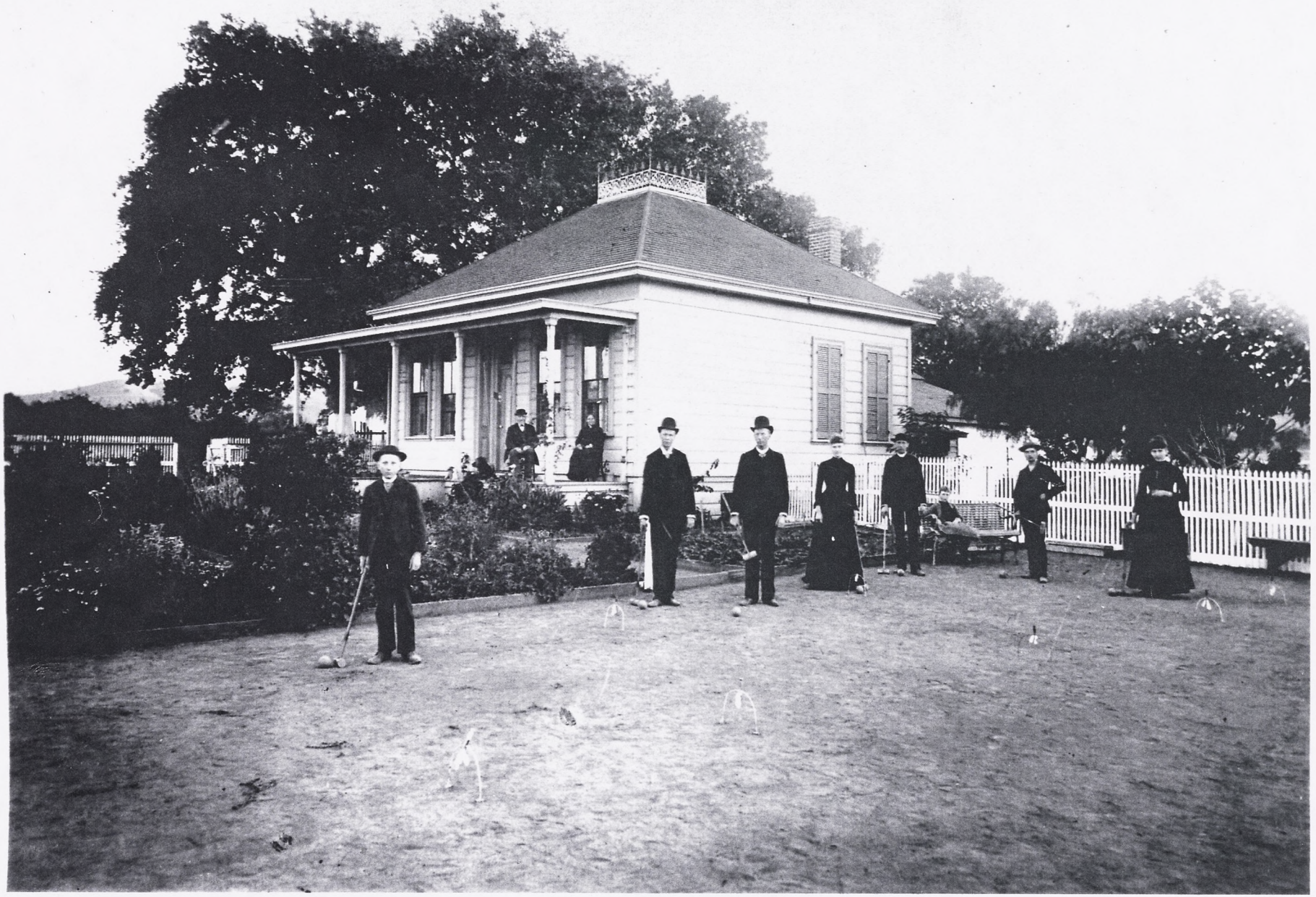
Mrs. Stelling and her husband, a onetime chairman of the Santa Clara County Republican Central Committee, were avid travelers, touring Europe, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union.

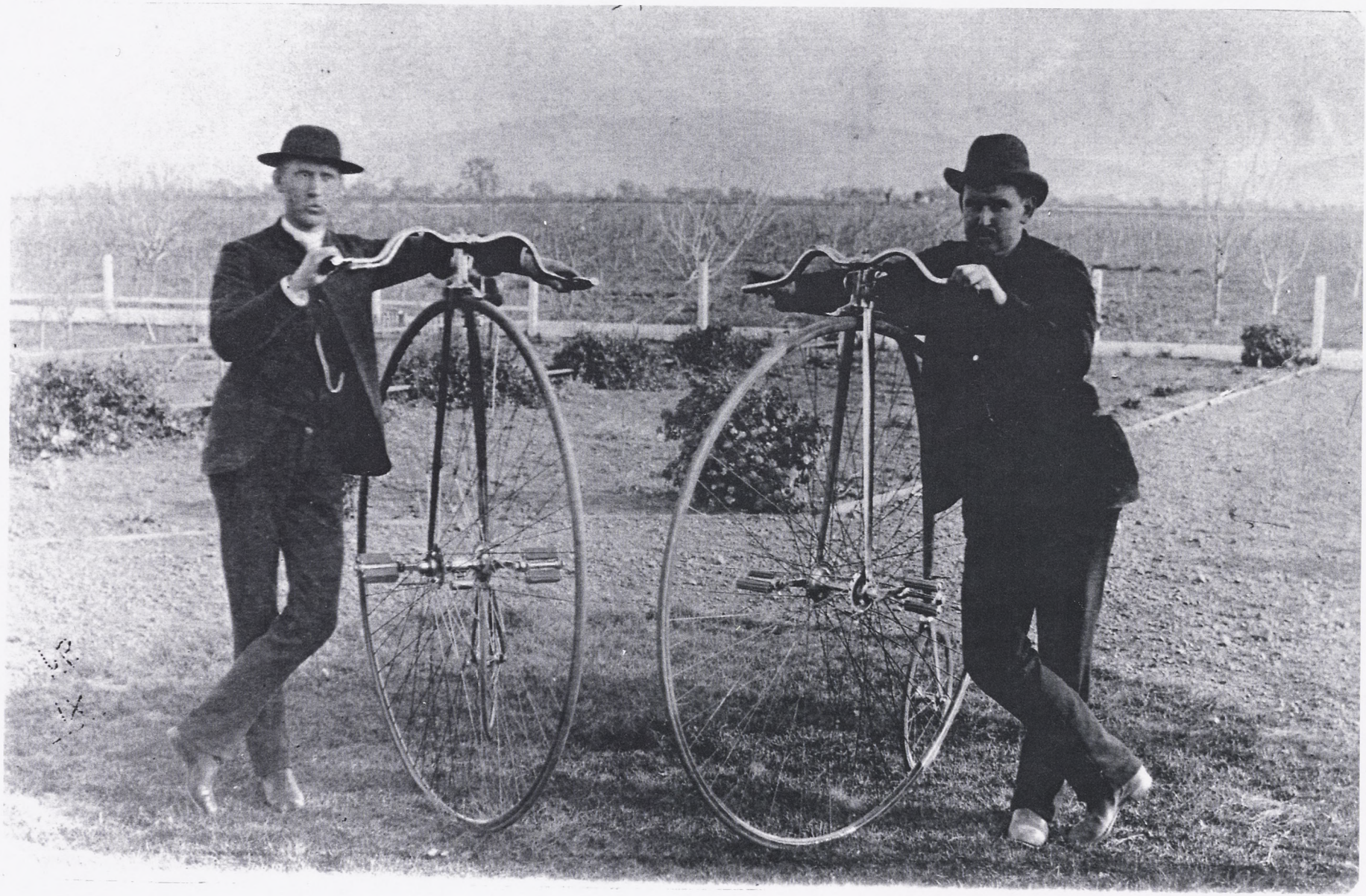
Mrs. Stelling was also an art lover who would travel cross-country just to see the exhibit of a favorite artist, according to Joan Stelling. Most captivated by the impressionists and postimpressionists, Mrs. Stelling also owned at least one Picasso sketch.

In the 1960s, the Stellings sold their cherry ranch to developers and moved to Saratoga. Donald Stelling died of heart failure in 1983, but Mrs. Stelling insisted on living alone in their home until shortly before her death, doing all her own shopping, cooking and gardening. A dog lover, she always had a German shepherd to keep her company.

"She was a one-of-a-kind, independent woman," said granddaughter Latta-Lyssenko. "She never forgot anything. She would always tell me stories about the valley and people of the valley."

The Stelling Family playing croquet next to their family home, Stelling Road, c. 1880





Henry Stelling and brother-in-law, c.1890

Stephens

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Captain Elisha Stephens (Stevens)

Captain Elisha Stephens (Stevens), hunter, trapper and explorer was the Cupertino area's first settler. He was born in 1801 in South Carolina of French and English parents. In 1844 he led the Stevens-Murphy-Townsend-Overland Party across the Sierra Nevada, over the same trail used by the ill-fated Donner Party. Stephens is credited with leading the first successful passage of wagons over the Sierra.

By 1850 Stephens had settled on the banks of the little creek/(Stevens Creek) known as Arroyo de San Joseph de Cupertino. His homesite was only a few hundred yards from the spot where de Anza and his men had encamped seventy-three years earlier.

Stephens purchased 155 acres along the creek for $855.00 and planted four acres of vineyard. His four acres of Mission grapes were considered the first vineyard planted in this region. He also planted the blackberry patch which now is the namesake of the Blackberry Farm Golf Course.

For several years he shared his home with Nathan Hall, who subsequently purchased some acreage across the road from Stephens. By 1864, the Santa Clara Valley had become "too durned civilized" for Stephens, so he sold his ranch to W. T. McClellan and George McCaulay and headed for the Kern River area, where he died in 1884.

Peter Ball settled on 350 acres in 1850. W. I. Blabon settled in 1860 and paid about $10.00 per acre for 350 acres on Highway 9.

Other early Cupertino pioneers were: Sutherland, Grimes, Montgomery, Doyle, Selinger, Williams & Regnart.

About 1880 an unusual group arrived to populate this section. They were all retired sea captains with families. Each bought about 50 acres, all built good (Cape Cod) homes. All planted vineyards, all prospered:

Wood, Crossley, Blake, Ross, Dunbar, Porter, Merithew, Harriman & Gibson.

"Almost Forgotten" Cartoon Pen and Inglings of the Santa Clara Valley
By Hall Rambo 1977

Cupertino Chronicle Volume 10
Pages 5 & 7

Mathilda Sousa
Catherine Gasich
1979

Elisha Stephens

1803 - 1887

Historians fight to honor Stephens

By Will Holbert
World News Service

Everybody knows about the Donner Party.

Think of pioneers struggling over the Sierra Nevada, and the desperate tale of starvation and cannibalism instantly pops into mind.

So how many people know about the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party? Not many, and that angers people like western county residents Chuck Graydon and Jim Rose.

Two years before the Donner tragedy, another group of settlers blazed the first wagon trail through the Sierra Nevada and into California. They did it without the loss of a single life.

In fact, one of two pregnant women on the journey gave birth near the South Yuba River. And some of the party are believed to be the first settlers to stand on the banks of Lake Tahoe.

Their leader was Elisha Stephens, a blacksmith turned trapper and mountain man. Despite overcoming incredible odds in bringing 50 men, women and children over the crest on Nov. 25, 1844, history virtually has forgotten him.

Graydon remembered how angry he felt when this oversight became obvious on a trip to Truckee.

"My God, everywhere you looked it was Donner Pass, Donner Lake, Donner this and Donner that...the Donner Party, they never even made it," Graydon said.

Graydon and Rose have made memorializing Stephens into a personal crusade. As members of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, they are leading an effort to name a peak near Donner Pass after Stephens. As commission chairman, Rose has applied to the U.S. Geological Survey and hopes to see Mount Elisha Stephens become reality this year, the 150th anniversary of his crossing the Sierra.

Rose's attempt is not the first. Another attempt 25 years ago to get Donner Pass renamed after Stephens went nowhere.

Ironically, the only geographical feature in California named after Stephens is a creek in Santa Clara County, where Stephens settled for a while after the crossing. Rose grew up in Santa Clara and remembers the creek from his childhood, long before he knew who Stephens was. Adding insult to injury to the pioneer's memory, the creek is listed as Stevens Creek.

During their trek the Stephens Party named a few places themselves – all of them Truckee, their name for a Paiute chief they used as a guide. Rose said his research revealed Truckee roughly translates into the Paiute word for "OK."

While Stephens' pioneers succeeded where the Donner Party didn't, they survived their own brushes with disaster. The party started running out of supplies during the crossing and split up, with most of the men riding horseback to Sutter's Fort for more provisions. The rest wintered in the mountains.

One 17-year-old boy stranded during an attempt to retrieve some wagons survived the winter alone in a crude cabin.

Meanwhile, when the men arrived at the fort John Sutter promptly pressed them into service and sent them to Santa Barbara to fight against a Mexican rebellion. The rest of the party was down to eating hides by the time they returned in February.

At one point in the journey, steep terrain forced Stephens to lead the wagon train along the bed of the Truckee River.

When the settlers started moving down the hill, they cut through what is now Bear Valley, which is off Highway 20 as it approaches the Lake Spaulding turnoff.

Stephens' crossing should hold particular interest for local residents because so much of it took place in what would become Nevada County, Rose said. But the Donner Party's notoriety overshadows Stephens' legacy even here.

Graydon is fighting that by putting on slide shows at schools and service club meetings. After after two years of struggling to name Mount Elisha Stephens, Rose hopes to dedicate it Sept. 24.

But even if that succeeds, Rose said Stephens' newfound recognition will almost certainly be eclipsed in two years, the 150th anniversary of the Donner Party.

"Then we're going to get Donner-ized n 1996," Rose said. "I'm thinking of leaving the state."

As for Elisha Stephens, fate dealt with him about as kindly as history after arriving in California.

After settling in Santa Clara County, he returned to trapping. Then he tried farming, eventually moving to a ranch near present-day Bakersfield. He went into chicken farming and beekeeping as one of the first settlers in Kern County.

Stephens died penniless in 1887 in his early 80s and was buried in an unmarked grave in a potter's field in Kern County.

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1994 - 150th Anniversary of the

OPENING OF THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL

by Lee Shegg

150 years ago this month an immigrant party set out from Council Bluffs destined for California. They would do something no one had accomplished before, that is, bring wagons into California over the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The party consisted of several families, workers and guides, totaling 49 people and 11 wagons. Three members of the party had mountaineering experience: John Hitchcock, Caleb Greenwood and Elisha Stephens. Stephens was named Captain of the company. The party became known as the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend Party, or some combination of one or more of these names, after the Captain and two of the families.

Their party followed the established Oregon Trail to a point a short distance west of Fort Hall, near present day Pocatello, Idaho. They left the Oregon Trail where the Raft River joins the Snake River and headed south to join and follow the Humboldt River in northeastern Nevada. Following the Humboldt all the way to the sink where the river evaporated or "sunk" into the desert was boring and uneventful. They had the tracks of the 1841 Bidwell Bartleson Party and the 1843 Chiles-Walker Party to follow. Bidwell's party abandoned their wagons in northeastern Nevada. Walker's wagons were abandoned in the Owens Valley. Both of these parties had continued south from the Humboldt Sink to find their entrances to California.

The Stephens-Murphy-Townsend Party met a group of Paiute Indians at the sink. By signs and heiroglyphics in the sand they were told of a river to the west that would take them to a pass in the mountains. The Indians' Chief used a term which the party took to be his name. When they came to the river as directed, they named it for the Chief; they called it the Truckee.

They followed the river upstream for about a month. The wagons had to cross and recross the streambed or travel in the streambed in order to negotiate the narrow canyon. Food for the stock animals became scarce as early snows blanketed the late season grasses. Two oxen died when they ate some exposed reeds too greedily. Despite the hardship the party arrived intact at the confluence of a creek (Donner Creek) and the Truckee River in mid November 1844.

The party split up. Six members on horseback with additional pack animals went south, following the Truckee upstream to Lake Tahoe. They became the first white people to walk on the shore of Lake Tahoe. They struck west at one of the streams that entered the Lake about midway down the west shore. In 21 days they reached the Sacramento Valley.

The remainder of the party, including the 11 wagons, followed the creek to the lake that fed it (Donner Lake). For three days they camped while members of the group searched for a pass. Finally on November 20, five wagons with the supplies they needed to exist began the ascent to the summit. Moses Schallenberger recounted many years later, "The snow on the mountains was now about two feet deep. Keeping their course on the north side of the lake until they reached its head, they started up the mountain. All the wagons were unloaded and the contents carried up the hill. Then the teams were doubled and the empty wagons were hauled up. When about half way up the montain they came to a vertical rock about ten feet high. It seemed now that everything would have to be abandoned except what the men could carry on their backs. After a tedious search they found a rift in the rock, just about wide enough to allow one ox to pass at a time. Removing the yokes from the cattle, they managed to get them one by one through this chasm to the top of the rock.

After a tedious search they found a rift in the rock, just about wide enough to allow one ox to pass at a time.

There the yokes were replaced, chains were fastened to the tongues of the wagons, and carried to the top of the rock, where the cattle were hitched to them. Then the men lifted at the wagons, while the cattle pulled at the chains, and by this ingenious device the vehicles were all, one by one, got across the barrier." The date wagons crossed the Sierra crest is given as November 25, 1844.

Schallenberger and two other members volunteered to stay behind and watch the goods remaining in the six wagons. After building a cabin they decided to follow the remainder of the group over the summit. Moses attempted the journey but returned to the cabin exhausted and cramped. For almost three months he lived alone at the cabin. Meanwhile the main group made it to the Big Bend area and made a temporary camp while one of the Murphy women gave birth to Elizabeth Yuba Murphy and a group of the men went to Sutter's Fort (present Sacramento) for supplies. Schallenberger was retrieved in late February, rejoined the immigrant group at Big Bend, and continued on to Sutter's with the whole group in early March of 1845.

The entire party arrived successfully in California, and in bringing wagons over the Sierra, they had opened the California Trail, 150 years ago.

Elisha Stephens — leading the way over the Sierras

By Jim Rose
Special to the Tahoe World

Elisha Stephens was born in South Carolina in 1804. The family later moved to Georgia where he was raised and learned the trade of blacksmithing. During the 1820s and '30s, Stephens worked as a trapper in the Northwest fur trade, sharpening his skills as a mountain man, which would come to serve him well in later events of his life. He was employed as a blacksmith with the Indian subagency at Council Bluffs, Iowa, when in 1844 the lure of the west moved him to join the wagon parties of Dr. John Townsend, Martin Murphy Sr., and others preparing to cross the plains to California in May of that year.

Although Elisha Stephens was considered by some to be somewhat eccentric, taciturn and solitary, his will was unyielding, and his leadership qualities were easily recognized by the other members of the wagon party, and he was elected their captain. One of the party members later wrote in his recollections of Captain Stephens, "We had great confidence in our leader." Although some historians have chosen to spell his name "Stevens," numerous recorded documents prove that not only was he literate, but he signed his name "Elisha Stephens."

The Stephens-Townsend-Murphy party consisted of 50 men, women and children, with 11 wagons. They followed the existing Oregon Trail from Council Bluffs, Iowa, and along the way, in the high plains desert region of western Wyoming, they would pioneer "Greenwood's Cutoff," named after the man who was hired as their guide, Caleb Greenwood.

When they reached Fort Hall, Idaho, they departed the Oregon Trail and followed the wagon wheel tracks laid down by the Walker-Chiles party of the previous year as far as the Humboldt Sink. From the Humboldt Sink they crossed the "Forty-Mile Desert" in present central Nevada, pioneering a new trail as they went. With the guidance of a Paiute Indian Chief they called Truckee, they followed a river which flowed easterly from the Sierra Nevada, which they named in his honor, the "Truckee River."

Captain Stephens then led the wagon party up the treacherous Truckee River canyon, frequently having to cross the river from bank to bank, and at times having to travel directly in the river bed itself. They eventually worked their way up the Truckee River to a beautiful Alpine mountain lake near the base of the Sierra summit. Again, honoring their Indian friend, they call it "Truckee's Lake," later to be renamed "Donner Lake."

This is the only known photograph of Elisha Stephens, taken in San Jose in 1864.

Photo courtesy Jim Rose

At this point, it was decided that six members of the main wagon party, four men and two women, would branch off on horseback and continue to follow the Truckee River. The plan was for the horseback party to reach Sutter's New Helvetia and send back help and supplies for the main wagon party. Along the way, the members of the horseback party would become the first white people to stand on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Also, it was decided to leave six of the wagons at Truckee's Lake in the charge of two men and a boy of 18, Moses Schallenberger. They quickly built a crude log cabin for refuge from the winter storms which were already upon them. This cabin would play a significant role two years later, providing life-saving shelter for the Breen family and other members of the ill-fated Donner-Reed party.

With nearly two feet of snow on the ground, Elisha Stephens led the remaining five wagons up to the summit where they encountered a vertical ledge of granite. At first it seem insurmountable, but after much searching, they located a narrow opening in the ledge, just wide enough to take the oxen through. With great determination and hard work by all party members they got the wagons over the mighty Sierra Nevada summit, on Nov. 25, 1844 – the first emigrant wagon party to accomplish this feat.

The Stepehens-Townsend-Murphy party eventually made it to Sutter's Fort at New Helvetia, thus pioneering the first practicable wagon route across the Sierra Nevada to the Sacramento Valley. This was to be known later as the "Truckee Route of the California Trail" – one of the three major branches of the Overland Emigrant Trail to California.

Due in large part to the courage and cooperation by all members of the party, as well as the sound leadership and judgment of Captain Elisha Stephens, all members, including two babies born along the way, completed their journey safely — a truly remarkable accomplishment considering the hardships and obstacles they encountered during their emigration west to California.

Elisha Stephens settled for several years in the lush foothill region of Santa Clara Valley, returning to his solitary life as a trapper and also trying his hand at farming, eventually owning over 300 acres of land. Several years later, feeling that the area was getting too crowded for his liking, he sold his land, and in 1861 he settled on a 40-acre ranch near present Bakersfield, Calif., raising poultry and bees. He is considered to be one of the first white settlers of the Kern County area.

He continued to lead a rather unassuming life for many years as a rancher until suffering a stroke, which left him partially paralyzed. He remained hospitalized for the last few years of his life, and died in 1887 at the age of 83.

He was buried in an unmarked potter's grave at the Union Cemetery in Bakersfield. There is no record of Stephens ever having been married, nor of any immediate family members living in California.

History has not dealt generously with Elisha Stephens. It it true that his solitary lifestyle did nothing to help garner him a more recognized place in the history books. But by all rights, his name should have been applied to the pass that was discovered under his leadership.

But because of the notoriety connected with the Donner-Reed tragedy in the winter of 1846, the pass, a lake and a nearby mountain peak, along with a state park, were given the name of Donner. The maps of California preserve Stephens' name only with the misspelled "Stevens Creek," located in Santa Clara county.

Several years ago an unsuccessful attempt was made by various historical organizations to rename Donner Pass to Stephens Pass. Rather than attempt that effort, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission has applied to the U.S. Geological Survey to name a mountain peak in honor of Elisha Stephens. "Mount Elisha Stephens" is located adjacent to and overlooking the pass which he helped pioneer 150 years ago this year – a just and deserved honor, long overdue.

The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission is also in the process of securing funding to construct a monument to be located near the pass, honoring the Stephens' Townsend-Murphy party, in this, the sesquicentennial year of their historic journey west to California.

A dedication date of Sept. 24, 1994 has been set, and if all goes well, we hope to see many of our fellow Oregon-California Trails Association members there to celebrate the event.

Jim Rose is chairman of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission.

Jim Gilmore
Cupertino Historical Soc.

ELISHA STEPHENS
of the
STEPHENS-MURPHY-TOWNSEND PARTY OF 1844

Mary Lou Lyon

Dedication of Mt. Elisha Stephens and a monument to the man who led the first wagon train over the Sierra will be held on September 24 at the Observation Point on Old Highway 40-Donner Pass by the California-Nevada Chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association. It will commemorate the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend Party who came over this pass 150 years ago in 1844.

This is the same Elisha Stephens who was the first English speaking person to live in what is now Cupertino. Although Stevens Creek, Stevens Creek Dam and Stevens Creek Road or Boulevard are named for him, they are misspelled. It is the intent of the same group to dedicate a marker memorializing him near his former property, Blackberry Farm, probably on Stevens Creek Boulevard. According to Mary Lou Lyon, a member and a Cupertino resident, it will take $500 to make the monument since the labor will be free. The site and the wording are being worked out with the help of the Cupertino Historical Society and the Cupertino Parks Department. A bank account has been established for this purpose at the Cupertino First National Bank. Checks should be sent to Elisha Stephens Monument, 879 Lily Avenue, Cupertino, 95014-4261.

Elisha Stephens was born in South Carolina in 1804. At the age of 18, he went to Georgia where he learned to be a blacksmith, and for a short time was also a plantation overseer. Born and raised among pioneers, his spirit of adventure soon led him West. He traveled all over middle and western America among the wild animals and Indians, hunting and trapping. Early in the spring of 1844, he was selected as Captain to the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend party because of his knowledge of the Great Basin and the Rocky Mountains, although he had never crossed the Sierra. All wagon train leaders were given the courtesy title "Captain". Old Caleb Greenwood and his two sons were hired as guides, although they had never been beyond the Rocky Mountains, either.

His careful planning of sending three mounted scouts out ahead with one coming back each night to guide the next day's journey kept the party moving slowly and carefully without the disasters experienced by other less well captained parties. The party consisted of 23 men, 8 women (2 pregnant), 15 children and 11 wagons. The only trouble they had from the Indians was theft, otherwise they often helped direct the party by sign language. Especially helpful was the Paiute Chief whom they called Truckee.

They camped in mid October at the same identical spot as the Donner Party two years later, but when snow began to fall, he split the party, sending four men and two women on ahead on horses. The main party with five wagons proceeded toward the summit, leaving the other wagons above Donner Lake with young Moses Schallenberger guarding them. They stopped again in a grassy valley where the second baby was born to the group, Elizabeth Yuba Murphy. The first was Ellen Independence Miller at Independence Rock. They finally all joined together at Sutter's Fort in March, exactly one year from when they had left Missouri. The entire train was intact with the addition of two.

It was Stephens who blazed the first trail over the Sierra that Fremont, "The Great Pathfinder" followed as well as the Donners and others. In later life, he is said to have resented the title given Fremont because he had followed the path made by this first party to bring wagons over the Sierra.

According to Ralph Rambo in *Adventure Valley*, which is the best account I have found, Stephens made a trip to San Diego in 1844-45, traveling in the interior and swimming the Kern River where Bakersfield is today. He told of turning out of the pass at the site of Fort Tejon to avoid the grizzly bears feeding on acorns. "They looked like bands of cattle, huge and shaggy, and many as large as two year old steers." Later, he may have resumed his trade as a blacksmith in Monterey for a while.

In 1848, he took up a 160 acre homestead, which he called Blackberry Farm on the east side of the Arroyo de San Joseph Copertino soon known as Stephens' Creek. His first two room shake-covered house was swept away by a flood. The second dwelling was planted on higher ground. He planted parts of his acreage to fruit trees, Mission grapes and blackberries.

Captain Stephens was of medium height, active, quick, wiry and untiring. He had a distinctive "eagle beak" nose. He never wore a coat, but favored a grey-blue shirt with a large hunting

knife in a sheath attached to a wide belt. A large black hat and a kerchief completed his costume. He was photographed only once in his lifetime by the San Jose photographer, Phoebe E. Payne.

An old friend and adventurer, "Peg Leg "Smith visited several times while he lived on Stevens Creek. They visited San Jose together, staging a frontier celebration. Other odd people stayed and worked for him, legend tells. A half-witted man tended his blackberries and orchard. The Overton brothers also once lived with him, cluttering his yard with their inventions which included perpetual motion machines, washing machines, steam plows and a steam wagon. Another guest was a medium and her daughter for whom Stephens bought a $400 piano.

A friend and neighbor was Frank Grant to whom Stephens gave the wagon he had crossed the Sierra with but it was allowed to rot away. Grant often told of being invited to dine with the Captain but he always refused, knowing what the main course would be. Stephens was skilled at catching rattlesnakes which were thick on his ranch.

"You don't know what's good! Ever eat frogs? Rattlesnakes beat frogs all to pieces! Just cut off the snakes' heads, hang 'em on the clothesline and let all the oil run out. I save the oil for my rheumatism. Then you cut the skinned snakes in little chunks, roll the pieces in eggs and bread crumbs and fry them. Beats frogs all to pieces. You don't know what's good, Grant. Stay anyway, Grant; I always got beans on the stove."

In 1859, he bought 155.57 acres from Jeremiah Clarke, expanding his holdings on "Stevens Creek" to 315.57 acres. In July, 1864, he sold his original 160 acres to George W. McCauley. In December, 1864, the remaining 155.57 acres were sold to W.T. McClellan.

He said "It's gittin' jist too crowded, too durn civilized" and he was off for Kern County where he settled on a small ranch which is now the city of Bakersfield. There he raised poultry and bees. He told his life story to Thomas A. Baker, a 15 year old boy who had nursed him back to health, but before the book could be published, it was destroyed by fire. The Captain died at the age of 83 in 1887 and is buried in Bakersfield.

Adventure Valley by Ralph Rambo
Who Were the Murphys; California's Irish First Family by Earl F. Schmidt
Trail of the First Wagons Over the Sierra Nevada (a Guide) Charles K. Graydon
"West Side Story", *County Chronicles, Vol. 9* by Ralph Rambo & Louis Stocklmeir

Louis
Stevenson

The Louis Stevenson Family
By Mrs. Ingeborg MacMillan
March 1991

Louis Stevenson was born in Sweden in 1863. He came to San Francisco around the turn of the century and left for Nome, Alaska in May 1901. He became the Superintendent of the Pioneer Mining Company (placer mining for gold). When he retired in 1921 one of the senior partners wrote him a letter which in part stated "during the time of your service to the company over twenty million dollars of virgin gold was mined under your immediate supervision. These many years of faithfulness has established your integrity and ability beyond question."

Mathilda Stevenson was also born in Sweden. She met Louis Stevenson in San Francisco and in the fall of 1903 she went to Nome and they were married. She became very interested in dog racing and won several trophies. The Ladies Home Journal wrote an article about her and her dogs that was published in 1920.

The Stevensons had three children, Vesta, Carl, and Ingeborg. Vesta passed away at the age of eight and is buried in Nome.

When Mr. Stevenson retired he became interested in buying property in the Santa Clara Valley. In 1921 he purchased 43 acres of prunes on Stevens Creek Road, a mile East of Cupertino Corners. This property is now part of Vallco Shopping Center. He took great pride in his orchard and was one of the first to build a dehydrator for drying prunes. He was the first to spray the orchard by aeroplane. During the Second World War it was very difficult to find help so the ranch was sold and Louis and Mathilda Stevenson moved to San Francisco.

Carl Stevenson graduated from San Jose High School and went on to graduate from Stanford University in 1927. While at Stanford he became well known as a distance swimmer, and was the first student to receive a "BLOCK S" for a minor sport. For many years he was assistant to the

President of Mohawk Oil Company. He married Jeanette Steele and thay had one daughter, Joan. Carl passed away in Palo Alto in 1977.

Ingeborg Stevenson graduated from the Cupertino Grammer School in 1923. She graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1927 and went on to San Jose State. She taught school for one year at the Western College of Commerce in San Francisco and then went to work for the Trust Department of the old Anglo London Paris National Bank in San Francisco (which is now Wells Fargo). She went to Honolulu in 1935, and there met and married Malcolm MacMillan. They lived in the Hawaiian Islands until 1942 and returned to San Francisco four months after Pearl Harbor. They had one daughter, Carol, who is married to Randal Hart and lives in Cupertino. Malcolm passed away in 1962 and Ingeborg is now living in Sunnyvale.

Bryant - L.S. 1935
Charlie Bryant and Louis Stevenson, 1935

Carl, Mathilda, Ingeborg, Louis Stevenson
Cupertino, 1929

Louis and Mathilda Stevenson with
Vesta and Carl, Nome, Alaska, 1908

Elsie Ayer and Mathilda Stevenson with sled (Above)

Elsie and Mathilda with trophy (Left)

Dear Ingeborg and Mac:—

Here I am on the Golden Gate Divide 70 Miles North of Nome, Alaska Feb. 1, 1923 together with Capt. Roald Amundsen the arctic and Antarctic explorer. Stopping for a cup of coffee, 55 below zero.

Capt. Amundsen first sailed the Northwest Passage 1903-1906 on Ship Gjoa and discovered the Magnetic North Pole and came through Bering Strait and int Bering Sea 1906. He stopped in Nome and make many friends here. He sailed the Ship Gjoa to San Francisco and donated the Gjoa to the City of San Francisco and the City placed the Gjoa on Beach at the edge of Golden Gate Park.

In 1911 Capt. Amundsen went to the Antarctic and the South Pole and discovered it Dec. 14, 1911.

In 1918-1920 Capt. Amundsen sailed away from Norway and into the arctic ocean and the Northeast Passage and came through Bering Strait and into Bering Sea 1920. He stopped in Nome to visit his many old friends from 1906 and here where I met Capt. Amundsen. Best wishes and regards, Victor

CARL STEVENSON

SWIMMING RECORD

Representing

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

1924-1927

TEAM CAPTAIN – 1927

CHAMPIONSHIPS

PACIFIC COAST INTERCOLLEGIATE
220-440 YDS. – 1925-1927

A. A. U.

NATIONAL (JR.) ONE MILE		1924
RUSSIAN RIVER MILE		1925-1926
PACIFIC COAST ONE MILE		1926
SAN DIEGO SILVER GATE		1926-1927
SAN FRANCISCO GOLDEN GATE	(Record)	1926
P.A.A. ONE MILE		1927
P.A.A. HALF MILE		1927
P.A.A. 500 YDS.		1926-1927
FAR WESTERN 440 YDS.		1927

Stockmeir

AVERY
PV119

A BRIEF SUMMARY TAKEN FROM BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

CONCERNING

THE LIFE STORY OF LOUIS EMIL STOCKLMEIR, SR.

Louis Emil Stocklmeir, a professional engineer of some standing, now retired, a keen horticulturist and a historian, was born on 28 October 1892 at a time when Benjamin Harrison was President of the United States and Queen Victoria was on the throne of Great Britain. His mother, Adelheid Irmler, was born at the boundary line of the Lake Constance area in German territory and attained her teenage years under both Swiss and German political philosophy. His father, Mathias, had a military background, having served in the Territorial Indian Wars of the West. He owned a mine in Canada and made frequent visits to the Klondike and Alaska. The family settled in Cupertino, Santa Clara County, California in 1900, since when their home has hosted four generations of the Stocklmeir family.

DISTINGUISHED UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICE IN WORLD WAR 1

Louis graduated from Stanford University in 1916 and became an assistant highway engineer for Santa Clara County. He later held the position of resident engineer on the construction of a 1000 foot concrete naval dry dock in San Francisco, and worked on many other marine construction projects. In 1917 he joined the regular army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Field Artillery, assigned to the Eleventh Field Artillery Regiment. He was sent to France in 1918 where he attended artillery school and studied French material. He was assigned to the Meuse-Argonne offensive and while serving on the Western Front was promoted to First Lieutenant. In 1919 he served in the occupation background defense area, prior to his honorable discharge in November that year in San Francisco. He received two awards in recognition of his services: the Victory Medal with Battle Star, and the Emblem Award, News Media. He later had two sons, Louis, Jr. 1924 and Dean, 1926 both of whom served in the U.S. Navy during World War 11.

In 1920 he married Gladys Boyer Wagnitz and re-entered the engineering profession. For the next four years he was employed in an association set up by a combination of 150 fire insurance companies and he held similar positions up until 1931, when he established a civil engineering and insurance brokerage in his own name. During the years 1942 and 1945, the engineering office undertook to modernize the tanning processing methods in vogue at the time on the Pacific coast by introducing chain-line production, at a time when materials were in short supply. When the large plant was eventually completed, it was a model for others to follow.

In 1959 Stocklmeir and Stocklmeir, a co-partnership engineering and insurance brokerage office was formed, separately supervised. His son, Louis Emil Jr., who died in 1972, was associated with him in the insurance business. During the period 1964 to 1975, Louis Stocklmeir Sr. established all his business interests under the incorporation laws of the State of California, except those of his horticultural activities, under the name Stocklmeir & Stocklmeir, Inc. This was a consulting engineering and insurance brokerage business.

THE TRIANON FOUNDATION, INC.

Between 1969 and 1974 Stocklmeir was first President of The Trianon Foundation, Inc. which was formed to carry out the restoration of a structure known as Le Petit Trianon, originally designed and built for a Californian Millionaire by Willys Polk, a noted California architect of the 1890s.

It stood on the De Anza College campus, Cupertino, and was scheduled to be razed. Working with others Louis Stocklmeir obtained consent to restore it from the College District Trustees, and the building was opened to the public on 23 February 1979, after ten years of effort and at a cost of about half a million dollars. It is to be the first Californian History Center and is intended for use by the public and by students, as well as being a landmark for posterity.

ENGINEERING ASSOCIATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

In his capacity of professional engineer, Stocklmeir is a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, New York and of the San Francisco Section, and a member of the Engineers Club of San Francisco. In the course of his career he has written numerous reports and papers, including: 'Grading cities and towns on their water facilities and defenses, particularly as it related to fire protection', for the American Water Works Association; 'Earthquake investigation and report on the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake' for east coast insurance interests.

SERVICE AS A HISTORIAN

As a historian, he is a member of the following societies: the Historical Societies of San Jose and Cupertino; Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association; Los Gatos Museum Association; Saratoga Historical Foundation; California History Center Foundation, De Anza College; El Camino Trust for Historic Preservation; National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Relative to his fascination with history, he has written a number of reports, papers and historical narratives, including: 'Cupertino-Copertino', concerning Cupertino, California and Copertino, Italy; 'San Giuseppi di Copertino, Italy' about the city of Copertino's saint, Il Santo del Volvo - saint of students and aviators; and a study of Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza's second expedition into northern California and the founding of San Francisco.

Perhaps his most significant achievement in this connection was his success in persuading the authorities to erect Historical Landmark 800 - a 700 pound bronze plaque imbedded in a 10 ton boulder, marking Colonel De Anza's encampment on March 25 and 26, 1776 on what is now the premises of a high school in Cupertino. Only one such marker per county is allowed by the State.

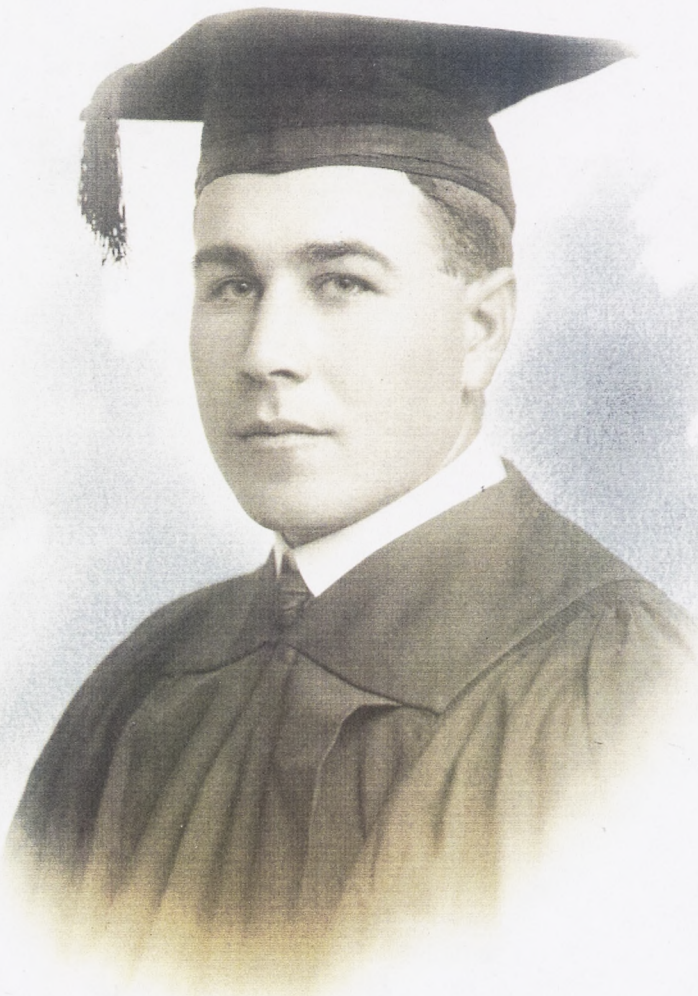
OTHER ASSOCIATIONS :AND SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Some other associations and societies to which Louis Emil Stocklmeir belongs are as follows: International Platform Association; Fine Arts League of Cupertino; New Founders League of Stanford University; Cupertino Lodge No. 510 F&AM; Cupertino Lodge No. 70 IOOF; Cupertino Chamber of Commerce; National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena; and the Republican Party. He has received a number of awards at state and local level, among them: Distinguished Service Award, Cupertino Education Association, 1966; a school named 'Louis E. Stocklmeir, Sr. Elementary School' in his honor, 1967; Honorary Member Service Award, Boy Scouts of America, 1967; Bear Flag Award, State of California, 1973; California State Senate Award, Resolution No. 18, dated February 1966; Resolution No. 901 Service Award Assembly, State of California 1973; and, in 1976, the library of the California History Center Foundation, De Anza College, was named the 'Louis E. Stocklmeir Regional Library'.Brief details of his career and achievements appear in 'Who's Who in America' and 'Who's Who in the West'. He is a Life Fellow of the International Biographical Association, England.

Louis Emil Stocklmeir has led an unselfish life to date, concentrating on benefitting his local community at state, county and municipal level. In 1978, at the age of eighty-three, he retired from active professional business and civic activities to his country estate, where he devotes his time to his horticultural interests and intellectual pursuits such as fine arts, poetry, historical research, scientific developments, politics, the humanities, education and music.

Prepared by Marian McBride, Vice President
Stocklmeir Insurance
division of
Kindler & Laucci
385 Sherman Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94306

Louis E. Stocklmeir



Certificate of Appreciation

The Cupertino Chamber of Commerce

Presents this Certificate of Appreciation to

Louis Stocklmeir

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1964

For Outstanding Service to the Chamber and Community of Cupertino, California

In witness whereof we have set our hands and affixed this seal this 25th day of February, 1965

Alfred P. Spiers
MANAGER

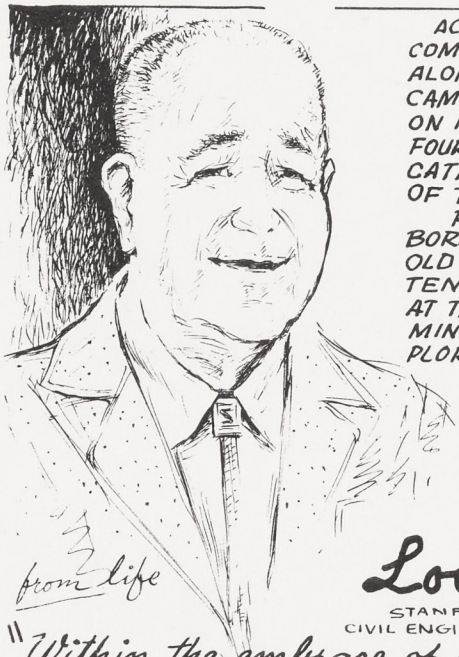
Ward B. Laing
SECRETARY

PRESIDENT

Louis and Gladys Stocklmeir

The Human Touch

by ---a. "Pete" Emig



ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS, CUPERTINO COMMUNITY LIFE ONCE FLOURISHED ALONG STEVENS CREEK NEAR THE FIRST CAMPSITE SET UP BY EXPLORER DE ANZA ON MARCH 25, 1776. FROM 1865 TO 1917 FOUR SCHOOLS ADMINISTERED THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TO THE CHILDREN OF THOSE EARLY SETTLERS.

PIONEER LOUIS STOCKLMEIR, BORN IN 1893, IS ONE OF THE FEW OLD TIMERS STILL WITH US WHO ATTENDED THE OLD SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL AT THE TURN OF THIS CENTURY. EDUCATION MINDED, YOUNG LOUIS FOLLOWED EXPLORER DE ANZA'S TRAIL TO PALO ALTO AND SET UP CAMP AT STANFORD FOR HIS DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING. FROM THERE HE EXPLORED EUROPE AS A U.S. ARMY ARTILLERYMAN IN WORLD WAR I, TO DO HIS PART IN PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES FOR OUR CHILDREN.

Louis Stocklmeir

STANFORD GRAD, CLASS OF 1916
CIVIL ENGINEER, HISTORIAN, HUMANITARIAN

"Within the embrace of our elementary and high school pupils of today rests the future enhancement and destiny of the City of Cupertino. Its unexcelled primary schools with their excellent past and present administrative and teacher leadership provide the most important line of defense against the intrusion of foreign isms inimical to our present way of American Life."

MR. STOCKLMEIR, WITH HIS LOVELY WIFE GLADYS, WILL CELEBRATE THEIR 43rd WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR AT THE 4th GENERATION HOMESTEAD ON STEVENS CREEK RD., NEAR DE ANZA'S FIRST CAMPSITE. THEY ARE VERY PROUD OF THEIR TWO SONS, LOUIS JR., BUSINESS PARTNER, AND DEAN, LT. COMMANDER IN THE U.S. NAVY, INCLUDING THEIR FOUR GRANDCHILDREN.

Svilich

AVERY® PV119

JOHN SVILICH FAMILY

John Svilich, my grandfather, was born in the town of Komiza, on the Island of Vis, off the coast of Dalmatia, Jugoslavia, on November 30, 1861. He was the son of Martin and Victoria (Vidovich) Svilich, both born in Dalmatia. His father was a shoemaker and the family lived on a farm. There were two sons in the family, Vincent and John. Grandpa worked on farms about the home neighborhood, and served four years in the Austrian Army.

Grandpa was married in Komiza on November 15, 1884 to Irene Mardesich the daughter of Joseph and Frances (Bonomo) Mardesich. Her father was a soldier in the Austrian Army most of his life. Grandma was the youngest of three children: Mitchell, Antonette(who died in infancy) and Irene my grandmother who was born on September 13, 1867. She was reared and educated in her native town.

When Grandpa came to America in 1889 he left Grandma with their two oldest children, Victoria and Antonette. In America he first settled in Portland, Oregon, where he remained for six months, then came to the Santa Clara County. Four months of each year he spent in Oregon and Washington fishing in the Columbia River district and during the winter he worked on ranches. This he did for five years. His brother, Vincent, joined him during this period and worked with him in farming. Grandpa then worked four years on ranches in various parts of Santa Clara County and by good management and economy accumulated enough money to lease a twenty-acre farm, called the Dagget place, on Boity Road, now known as Fremont Road.

In 1900 having saved enough money he felt he could afford to send for his wife and two daughters who were still in Jugoslavia. They had been running a small bakery in the town of Komiza. After the family arrived here, Grandpa insisted that my mother and aunt go to school so that they could learn the language and help him in his business. He himself had had little schooling and kept all his business figures and the hours of workers in his memory. So the 2 sisters attended Collins School on the corner of Homestead and De Anza Blvd. (then Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd.) The building is now the Cupertino De Oro Clubhouse.

In 1906, Grandpa purchased a twenty-acre ranch on the Homestead Road about half a mile west of Collins School. On this property was a two-stor house to which the family moved. The property was part of the Gartlemann Estate, a section of land settled in 1864. Mr. Gartlemann was married to Mr. Vortman's sister of Hollenbeck Avenue, Sunnyvale. It is not known just when the house was built. Margaret Vortman Drury told me that all her father's cousins had been born in that house and Annie Gartlemann, the oldest, had died not too long ago at the age of 92. Some time in the 1940's the house was destroyed by fire. Grandpa later bought five more acres from Mr. William Calvert.

During these years six more children were born to Grandma and Grandpa: Maria K. (April 8, 1901-June 8,1901); John (August 1, 1902 November 15, 1904); the twins, William (1903-1962) and Joseph (1903-1989) born August 27th; Frances G. (Oct. 8, 1904-January 31, 1905); and the youngest, Paul (1907-1977). The twins, William and Joseph and Paul were the only ones raised to adulthood. Paul had resided on the ranch most of the time.

There were 2 houses on the property. Grandpa and Grandma lived in one and Uncle Steve and Aunt Lobrovich lived in the other. We always called her Aunt Lobrovich because Aunt Antonette was too confusing. Whenever Mother and Dad went on a trip they would leave my two sisters, Winifred and Mathilda with Aunt Lobrovich and I would stay with Grandpa and Grandma

Grandpa was tall, slim, blonde and handsome. Grandma was small, with dark hair and snappy black eyes. Grandpa was cool tempered, and I don't ever remember seeing him really angry. Grandma was quick-tempered and when she was angry, she was really angry. I remember one time someone was stealing grandma's chickens. This happened several times. One night when Grandpa wasn't home grandma heard a commotion in the chicken house She got very angry, got Grandpa's rifle, loaded it and fired a shot in the air. Needless to say there were no more chickens stolen.

In 1919 Grandpa bought the Wold place of thirty- acres which was just across the road from the home place on Homestead Road. Now with this added acreage he raised prunes, apricots, peaches, and cherries. There was a well on the new property so he had his own irrigating plant with water piped to the different parts of his orchards. He also sold water to those neighbors who did not have their own wells for irrigating their orchards. Years later, my husband and I, used water from this same well when we owned an apricot orchard on Alberta Avenue in Cupertino. Grandpa was also engaged in buying, drying and selling dried fruit to packers and shipped fresh cherries to the Eastern markets. While Grandpa was busy with his orchards Grandma was kept busy with not only raising a family, but also raised chickens and vegetables. She was especially proud of her flowers she had planted and cared for in the fenced in yard around the house.

Grandpa died in 1926 and Grandma died in 1938.
All their children are now gone but it would certainly amaze Grandpa and Grandma to see how their original family of five children had grown, and how many children and grandchildren they would have had.

1. From Victoria who married Paul A. Mariani, there were four children
   - A. Winifred (Matt Thiltgen) lives in Santa Rosa, has two sons Paul and Bart and 5 grandchildren.
   - B. Irene, lives in Saratoga (Felix Perkov) has 5 children, Marilyn (Gene McMaster) Felix, Jr. (deceased) Vickie (Sanfillipo) Carl and Cathie (Wassenberg), and eleven grandchildren.
   - C. Mathilda (George Sousa) has two children 1 son George and a daughter Marian (Gene Ciabattari) and 9 grandchildren.
   - D. Paul (Mary Frances Guilbert) now deceased had seven children, Linda, Paul III, John, David, Mark, Richard and Lisa (John Delmare (5 boys and 2 girls). At this time he has 23 grandchildren.
2. From daughter Antonette, there were three children. (Steve Lobrovich)
   - A. Mary (Fred Thomas) 3 daughters and 1 son.
   - B. Irene, 1 son 3 grandchildren.
   - C. Archie 3 children, 2 sons and 1 daughter.
3. From William, no children.
4. From Joseph, one son now deceased.
5. From Paul, one son, Jon Paul and 2 grandchildren.

It certainly shows that there are many descendants of John and Irene Svilich.

Written by Irene Mariani Perkov 2/3/91

1907 wedding photo of Victoria Svilich and Paul Mariani.
Maid of honor was sister to Victoria, Antoinette Svilich.
Best man was brother to Paul, Jack Mariani.

Mariani & Svilich:

Victoria Svilich and Paul Mariani were both born in Komiza, Yugoslavia. Childhood sweethearts, they were separated in 1900, when Victoria's parents took the family to America. Paul languished for a year, begging his father for permission to emigrate to California. After "striking" on the family vineyard, his father finally said yes. In 1902, with a ticket, forty dollars and a dream, seventeen-year old Paul arrived in New York, where he worked in a coconut factory at $1.50 a day until he could afford to move to San Francisco - he never ate coconut afterward. He worked a cooper in North Beach, thanks to Dr. Kucich, who was friendly with the Svilich family. Each day off, he would take the train and/or his bicycle, down to Cupertino to see Victoria.

In 1907, Victoria and Paul were finally married, and they moved to the Napa valley. Two years later, Paul developed an allergy to fumes released by the heated oak, and doctors were unable to help; he was bed-ridden. Mr. John Svilich, Victoria's father, persuaded him to bring the family to Cupertino, rather than return to Yugoslavia. Victoria took him to see an Italian faith healer in Santa Clara. The healer prescribed a steam bath of garlic tops and elderberry leaves, which cured him.

In all, Victoria and Paul had four children; Winifred (Thiltgen), Irene (Perkov), Mathilda (Sousa), and Paul Jr., and created a fruit-drying empire that dominates the market to present day.

Exerp from "Field of Dreams: Women of Cuperino, 1855-1925"

1910 wedding photo of Antoinette Svilich and Steve Lobrovich.
They were married in St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Cupertino.

Lobrovich & Svilich:

Steve Lobrovich was born in 1887 in a small town, Slano, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He emigrated to America in 1907 to San Francisco where other relatives had already established themselves. Steve's brother lived in the vicinity of the John Svilich orchards on Homestead Road. Steve, on one of his visits from San Francisco met Antoinette Svilich, a daughter of John and Irene Svilich. They too, had recently emigrate to America from Yugoslavia.

In October of 1910 Steve and Antoinette were married in the Cupertino St. Joseph's Catholic Church. They lived in San Francisco for a short time and then moved to the corner of Fremont and Saratoga Roads. Here they opened a grocery store and gas station called Fretoga.

Their first child, a girl named Mary, was born in 1911. A second daughter, Irene, was born in 1916, and a son, Archibald was born in 1919. From 1911 on, the Lobrovich family resided at the Fremont corner home where they packed cherries, dried apricots, prunes and pears until Steve retired.

From the papers of Irene Perkov - Cupertino Museum.

PAUL SVILICH

Circa 1920

The Matthew Tantau Family
From The 1888 EDITION OF PEN PICTURES

MATTHEW TANTAU, deceased. The subject of this sketch was born in North Germany in 1815. Of his youthful days no more is known that at fifteen years of age he became a sailor boy, and that he followed the seas until he reached manhood. After leaving the ocean life, he wedded Miss Catherine Theuerkauf, a sister of Frederick Theuerkauf, at Cincinnati, Ohio, where their eldest child, Mary, was born. She is now the wife of Charles Silent, an attorney at law, residing in Los Angeles. Later, Mr. Tantau made his home in New Orleans, and there his two sons, George F., now a business man in San Francisco, and Frederick were born. Later still Mr. Tantau again became a resident of Cincinnati, where he engaged in different occupations, making in each steady progress toward a competence. At one time he was engaged in grocery trade in that city. During the time that he lived there his son August was born.

Mr. Tantau, finding that his health was giving way, by advice of his physicians concluded to come to California. In company with Frederick Theuerkauf, an old friend and a neighbor both in New Orleans and Cincinnati, he came to this valley by the Isthmus route in 1852. On the west bank of Campbell's Creek, on what is now the Bollinger Road, in the Doyle District, they bought out of a Spanish land grant, 200 acres of land. Mrs. Tantau and the children coming by the same route, joined the family in 1853.

In company with Mr. Theuerkauf, the subject of our sketch worked the property until 1862 at which time they owned about 500 acres. Mr. Tantau's family residence on the Bollinger Road, a little west of the crossing of Campbell's Creek was established in 1858 and four years later his partnership with Mr. Theuerkauf was dissolved and their interests divided. Mr. Tantau, who had come to the valley with a good working cash capital for those years, by industry and economy added to his estate, until his death his real and personal property amounted to $60,000.

His youngest children, Emma and Flora, were born in this county. The former is now the wife of John Blauer of San Jose.

Mr. Tantau was possessed of a vigorous vitality and a strong intellect. He helped many a poor worthy man, but never gave assistance to the unworthy. His last years were filled with suffering, which was born with Christian fortitude. His useful and honorable life was closed in April, 1881, his widow surviving until July 25, 1886. The lives of both Mr. and Mrs. Tantau exemplified the religion which they professed.

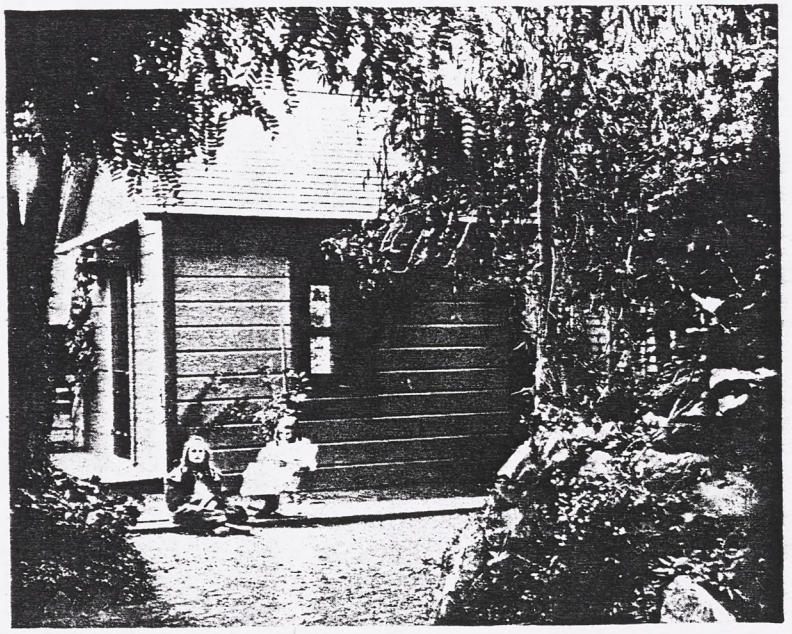
Catharina THELLERKAUF and
Mathew (Mathias) TANTAU

herd of Jersey cows will be kept in order that guests may be supplied with plenty of fresh milk and butter; gardens will supply them with fresh vegetables, and orchards with fruit. Everything will be kept neat and clean, and the wants of every guest assiduously attended to. The table will be made especially attractive.

CLIMATE AND SURROUNDINGS. The climate is pleasant in the extreme. The hotel is 730 feet above the level of the sea, and is seldom reached by the fog. It is protected from strong winds, and the air is always clear, bright and invigorating. It is one of the best hunting and fishing resorts in the county, the surrounding hills being well supplied with quail, doves, rabbits and squirrels; and Campbell Creek, which runs through the place, is a fine trout stream.

There are in numerous directions good roads, offering opportunity for riding and driving among the orchards and vineyards of the valley on the one hand, and through forests and up mountain grades on the other.

THE WATER AND THERAPUETICS. Water from Congress Springs has for years been sold all over the Coast. A receiver is placed over the main spring in which to collect the gas, and the water is bottled in its natural state. It belongs to the alkalo-chalybeate class, which is so valuable for table purposes. Its action is mildly aperient, from the presence of Glauber and Epsom salts, diuretic from the large amounts of carbonates, and antacid from carbonic acid gas, which forms alkaline carbonates with metallic bases. The water is also largely tonic and ferruginous from the large quantity of iron salts. It has obtained considerable celebrity in the treatment of anæmia, dyspepsia, liver and kidney troubles, irritability of the bladder, rheumatism, gout and cutaneous affections. It simply, yet effectually, cleanses the system.



EVELYN AND MABEL TANTAU'S PLAY HOUSE, WEST SIDE.

It is very grateful to the stomach of febrile patients, lessening nausea and gastric irritability, rendering the fluids in the body alkaline, and promoting a more copious secretion of the urinary organs.

In biliary calculi it has been found very beneficial. An acid which dissolves feldspathic and micaceous rock must also have some action on urate of lime and biliary salts.

Vesical calculi are also influenced, as in catarrhal affections of the bladder, chronic cystitis, etc. It is especially good for Bright's disease of the kidneys, the chalybeate carbonated water being much more valuable in such cases than simple alko-carbonated water.

The iron tends to raise the temperature of the body, by creating more red blood corpuscles, producing a healthier glow and rosier cheek.

Water may often be rapidly assimilated by absorption than when introduced into the stomach. The Congress Spring water is very delicious for bathing purposes, and facilities will be provided for its use in this manner. A plunge will be provided, and the latest and best porcelain tubs will be supplied.

ANALYSIS OF THE WATER. An analysis by Winslow Anderson, assayer at the State University, shows that the Pacific Congress Springs water contains:

	Grains.
Sodium, chloride	115.76
Sodium, carbonate	120.42
Sodium, sulphate	12.95
Potassium, carbonate	2.06
Magnesium, carbonate	26.34
Magnesium, sulphate	4.19
Ferrous, carbonate	13.87
Alumina	4.50
Silica	3.93
Total	304.07
Free carbonic acid	44.17

THE TANTAU FARM. Frederick W. Tantau owns, on the Bollinger road, about seven and a half miles southwest of San Jose, 136 acres. There are 100 acres in prunes, only 20 acres of which are in bearing, From the latter he this year gathered 100 tons of fruit, or five tons per acre. The product sold for $30 per ton, or $3,000 for the crop from the 20 acres. There are 5 acres of apricots, only a few of which are yet in bearing. The remaining 31 acres are devoted to hay and pasturage. The hay field generally yields two tons of wheat hay per acre.

The farm is well supplied with buildings, the residence and barn both being especially large and well appointed. Mr. Tantau has built and furnished for the amusement of his two little girls a play house which is a complete counterpart of ordinary residences. The building is handsomely finished inside and out — redwood within, and rustic without. It is also thoroughly furnished, and is a complete establishment, with dishes, cupboard, fine furniture and a good stove. The little girls are here early learning the routine of a household.

Mr. Tantau came to California in 1853, when he was but four years old, and has resided in Santa Clara County continuously since.

TRACING your ROOTS

SKELETAL ANCESTRAL CHART

William Morse Tantau
name
rn: SF MAR 1 '35
ere:
ed:
ere: Sally Simon Tantau
me of spouse

HART H. TANTAU
My father
Born: 1905
Where: SF
Died: 1991
Where: SF

MARY MORSE TANTAU
My mother
Born: SF 1906
Where:
Died: 1967
Where: PALO ALTO

GEORGE F TANTAU JR
My grandfather
Born: 1873
Where: SF
Died: 1920 ±
Where: So. AMERICA

ANNE HART TANTAU
My grandmother
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

LESTER LANGFORD MORSE
My grandfather
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

FRANCES PIERCE
My grandmother
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

FREDRICK
GEORGE F TANTAU
My g. grandfather
Born: 1847
Where: Louisiana ?
Died: 1924
Where:

OTTILIE THIERKAUF TANTAU
My g. grandmother
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

RICHARD GLANVILLE HART
My g. grandfather
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

CATHERINE TONKIN GOYNE
My g. grandmother
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

CHARLES COPELAND MORSE
My g. grandfather
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

MARIA JOSEPHINE VICTORIA LANGFORD
My g. grandmother
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

JAMES PEIRONNET PIERCE
My g. grandfather
Born: 1825
Where:
Died: 1897
Where:

AMELIA PEASE
My g. grandmother
Born:
Where:
Died:
Where:

MATHEW TANTAU
My g. g. grandfather 1815-1881
KATHERINE THEUERKAUF
My g. g. grandmother 1818-1886

(THEUERKAUF)

My g. g. grandfather
My g. g. grandmother

My g. g. grandfather
My g. g. grandmother

My g. g. grandfather
My g. g. grandmother

My g. g. grandfather
My g. g. grandmother

My g. g. grandfather
My g. g. grandmother

My g. g. grandfather
My g. g. grandmother

HENRY MILLER PIERCE
My g. g. grandfather
SUSAN PEIRONNET
My g. g. grandmother

My g. g. grandfather
My g. g. grandmother

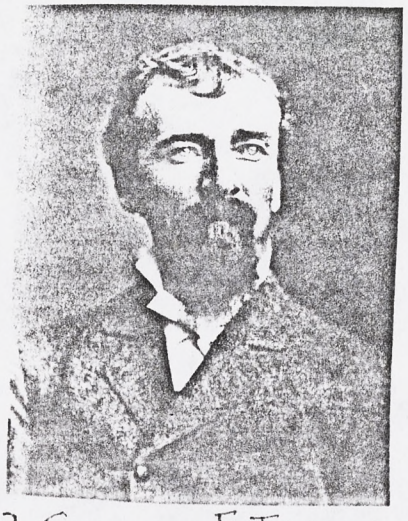
77 Nelson Doubleday, Inc.

MATHEW (MATHIAS) TANTAU FAMILY

Catharina THELER KAUF
b. Nieder-Inglesheim, near
DARMSTADT, GERMANY
1818

Mathew (Mathias) TANTAU
b. Fünen Is., DENMARK
31 Mar 1815

Mary C. - 1846
b. Cincinnati, OH.



? George F. TANTAU
b. New Orleans, LA
1847

Frederick W. TANTAU
b. New Orleans, LA - 1849

August - 1851
b. Cincinnati, OH

Emma Dorothy
b. San Jose, CA - 1854
(Cupertino)

Flora - 1861
b. San Jose, CA

Tikvica

AMERPOL
PV119

NICK TIKVICA SONS

525 WEST REMINGTON DRIVE, SUITE 114 • SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94087 • TELEPHONE 739-4051

A BRIEF HISTORY
of
THE NICK TIKVICA FAMILY

Nick Tikvica was born in Croatia, Austria- Hungary, which is now a part of Yugoslavia, in 1888 . He arrived in the Santa Clara Valley in 1907. He stayed with friends and worked at various jobs until he bought his first 5 acre ranch on Fremont Rd. In 1918, he married Thelma Kristinich. They raised 3 sons, Raymond, Lester, Nick, and 1 daughter, Irene. He farmed the property on which the Fremont Highschool now stands ; three of his other parcels are now a part of the Fremont Highschool campus.

Nick Tikvica and his sons raised cherries, apricots, prunes, strawberries, tomatoes, walnuts, apples and grapes on several ranches throughout central California. Nick Tikvica died in 1964, and his wife in 1982. As the cost of farming in this area became prohibitive, 'Nick Tikvica Sons'developed these properties commercially, but are still active in farming in Merced County.

Torre

AVERY PV119

HISTORY OF THE TORRE FAMILY

Vincent Torre, Sr. was born in Lucca (province of Tuscany) Italy, on November 15, 1873. He attended the public schools in Italy and at the age of 17 came to the United States, and went to Eureka, Nevada to work for his great-uncle, John Torre, on the cattle ranch. He worked for his uncle from 1889 to 1907. During this time, his uncle was a Nevada State Senator, representing Eureka County, Eureka, Nevada.

Early in 1907, Vincent Torre, Sr. went to New York City where he met and married Domenica Moglia, born October 29, 1882 , who had come from Palma, (Province of Palma) Italy, and was living with a sister in New York. The sisters worked in a tobacco factory making cigars.

Following their marriage in New York, he and Domenica returned to the cattle ranch in Eureka, Nevada. Part of the Eureka Ranch is known today as the Torre Flats. They remained there waiting for the birth of their first child, John Frank Torre, who was born on December 5, 1907 in Eureka, Nevada.

Early in 1908, Domenica, Vincent, Sr. and their son came to California and settled at the Torre Winery in Montebello, west of Cupertino. Here again Vincent, Sr. worked for his uncle, who owned the 100-acre vineyard and winery (now the Ridge Winery). While living in Montebello, Vincent Torre, Sr., served as school trustee with John Picchetti.

In addition to the 100-acre Torre property, Vincent, Sr. owned fourteen acres which were contiguous on the northeast corner of the larger property and adjacent to Montebello Road. Later, there was an agreement for the sale of the 14 acres to Mr. Chena. However, during 1920, he was in San Francisco during a labor riot and was killed. Subsequently, the 14 acres were sold to Mr. Wofle who owned the Monte Vista Cannery.

Uncle John Torre and his wife, Modesta, lived in Alameda, California. He would commute to the Montebello Ranch several times during the year. Upon the death of his Uncle John in 1913, Vincent, Sr. purchased the vineyard and winery from the estate through Modesta Torre. Around 1920, the Torre Winery was sold to Andrew and Frank Mikulaco. Soon after, the title was transferred to Andrew Mikulaco alone. Modesta died in 1938, when she was already in her 90's.

Vincent, Sr.'s second son, Vincent Virgil Torre was born in Cupertino on July 19, 1909 at the Hicks Ranch Home, on the southwest corner of McClellan and Bubb Roads. The ranch was managed by the Joe Bargette Family. The ranch consisted of a vineyard and a fruit orchard.

Vincent, Sr.'s only daughter, Theresa Torre was born on November 25, 1911 at the Torre Ranch in Montebello. Theresa married John Wesley Bridges

and had two daughters, Carol and Joane. Both Theresa and John Bridges have passed away. John Bridges was a machinist with Valley View Packing Company (Rubino).

All three of the Torre children attended the one room Montebello school until 1920, when the family moved to the three acres and home at 19945 Stevens Creek Road near Blancy Avenue. While living in Montebello, the Catholic Sisters would come to the school to give the children Catholic instruction.

The following were students at the Montebello Elementary School: Louie and Guido Panighetti; Mario and Charles Rousten; Pete, Fred and Norma Pichetti; Katherine Banci; Margaret Gemello; John, Vincent and Theresa Torre. Vincent Torre, Sr. sponsored Charles Rousten, Sr. to become a U.S. citizen.

All three of the Torre children attended the Collins Elementary School on the corner of Sunnyvale-Saratoga and Homestead Roads (now the De Oro Club House). About 1921, the new Cupertino Union School was opened and all three children were graduates of this school.

Mario and Charles Rousten graduated from San Jose High School. They commuted back and forth each day, Mario with an Indian motorcycle and later the brothers in a Model T Ford.

Mario Rousten graduated form the University of Santa Clara and died soon after, in the late 1920's. Charles Rousten took over the operation of the family-owned winery on Montebello Road, after the death in 1941 of his father. Charles died of heart failure at his Montebello Road home on March 2, 1990. He was 84.

All three Torre's graduated from Fremont Union High School. Vincent, Jr. became an orchardist and farmed the family orchards. Theresa graduated from Heald College and became a secretary. John graduated from San Jose State College in 1932, and attended Stanford during the summers of 1933-1934, and in 1935, he received his school administrative credential as well as a general secondary teaching credential. He began teaching one of the 8th grade classes at Los Banos Elementary School in 1932, became Vice Principal in 1933, and Principal in 1952. He retired in 1968, after 36 years with the Los Banos Unified School District.

During the years in Los Banos he became Scout Master of Troop 85, neighborhood Scout Commissioner and served on the District Scouting Program. He was President of the Merced-Mariposa County Teachers Association, Secretary-Treasurer of the Merced-Mariposa Principal's Association, charter member of the Los Banos Lions Club, and Chairman of the Los Banos May Day Kiddies' Parade. He has been a delegate to both the National Education Teachers

Convention and the Lions Clubs. In addition to his teaching duties he coached basketball, track and baseball. He was elected to 2 terms (8 years) on the Los Banos City Council (1967 - 1975) and served as Vice Mayor.

Minnie Torre (homemaker) is a charter member of the Y. L. I. (Young Ladies' Institute). She has also been active in clubs and senior citizens activities.

John Torre and his family worked each summer at Cupertino helping with the harvest of the fruits from the family orchard.

The Torre's raised prunes, apricots and cherries. The prunes and apricots were dried at the "Dry Yard", six acres owned by the family on South Blancy Avenue, now the Biltmore Apartments.

Vincent Torre, Jr., a single man, lived at the home place until it was sold on November 20, 1983. It is now the Cupertino Professional Office Building on Stevens Creek Blvd. Since then, Vincent lives on West Rodriguez Avenue in Cupertino. Vincent Torre, Sr. died on September 1, 1941 and Domenica Torre died on March 1, 1978. Both are entombed at the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery.

John and Minnie maintained a home in Cupertino, as well as one in Los Banos. In 1945, they purchased the former Dr. E.H. Durgin orchard and home, and sold it in 1963 to the Palo Alto Savings and Loan Association, now the Great Western Bank. Torre Avenue has been named for the family. Upon selling the Cupertino orchard and home, John and Minnie Torre purchased 12.4 acres in the Saratoga Hills (end of Wardell Road). When the family lived in Cupertino, they attended the St. Joseph's Catholic Church and attended Catechism instruction on Saturday.

John married the former Minnie Palermo of Los Banos on August 30, 1936. They have two sons who were R.O.T.C. Cadets in college and served in the U.S. Army.

Randall John Torre has been a doctor of Podiatric Medicine with the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Santa Clara since September, 1974. He was the first podiatrist hired at the Medical Center. He started practice with the U.S. Army in September, 1966 through January, 1970, at Ford Ord. Upon discharge he went into private practice in San Ysidro from March, 1970 to June, 1974. He is a graduate of San Jose State University and the College of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco. He is a Board Certified Foot Surgeon and has been elected to the California Podiatry Medical Board.

James Vincent Torre, an attorney-at-law, is a graduate of Stanford University and the Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. His law office is in San Jose. He has also served in the armed forces overseas.

Both Randall and James are graduates of the Los Banos public schools.

HISTORY OF THE TORRE WINERY

Wines from the Torre Winery were delivered by horse-drawn wagons. The trips were hard and took many hours. A trip to Santa Clara would start about 4:00 a.m. and return about midnight. Most of the wine was sold to the John B. Nochetti Company of New York.

Empty whiskey barrels were purchased; the carbon was removed from the barrels, and then they were sterilized. The barrels were filled and taken to the Joe Williams warehouse on the corner of Stevens Creek and Stelling Roads. This would take several weeks. Then the freight cars would be ordered. The barrels were reloaded on wagons, taken to the loading rail at Monte Vista and were finally sent on their way to New York.

Some wines were sold to Valley families and the balance to John Pichetti at the Pichetti Brothers Winery. All wines were pumped and the grapes crushed by manual labor. The varieties of grapes were mostly Zinfandel with some Molvaze, black pinot, some white grapes, and muscats.

The winery consisted of one building. The barn was (upstairs) at ground level, with the winery below it. The entrance to the winery was on the lower level facing east. On the northeast corner of he barn and over the winery was the working men's bunk room.

Attached to this building, next to the entrance to the winery, was the hay and horse barn. Most of the hay was grown on the ranch. Some hay and hogs were purchased from the Rolph Ranch in La Honda. To get to the Rolph Ranch you traveled to the rop of the ridge, then down to Alpine Road to the Rolph Ranch. As of this writing, the buildings remain about the same (1990).

The house consisted of a kitchen, two bedrooms and a spare room. A unitility room storage room and wash-room ran the length of the house on the south side.

All cooking was done on a wood burning stove. Bread was baked in a large brick outdors oven which was heated by burning wood. The coals were removed and large loaves of bread placed in to bake.

Water for drinking and cooking was carried up from a spring about 300 feet below the house. Water for general use was piped from a spring, a long distance, south of the house and ran by gravity flow into a storage tank located inside the barn. Kerosense lamps and candles were used for light.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN CENTER

The original plans for the Cupertino Town were formed in 1960 by all the owners of the lands consisting of 102 acres on the South East Corner of Stevens Creek Blvd and De Anza Blvd.

The owners were instrumental in obtaining the site for the Cupertino City Hall at Rodrigues and Torre Avenues.

The furnishings for the city hall at that time, when it was built, were paid for by these property owners, based on a self-assessment per acre.

April 11, 1939
John & Minnie Torre, prior to Randall's birth

John Torre, Los Banos Elementary School
c 1940

Voss

AVERY®
PV119

THE CUPERTINO HERITAGE OF HERMAN HENRY VOSS

BY

HIS DAUGHTER, ANNA CAROLINE VOSS, S.N.D.

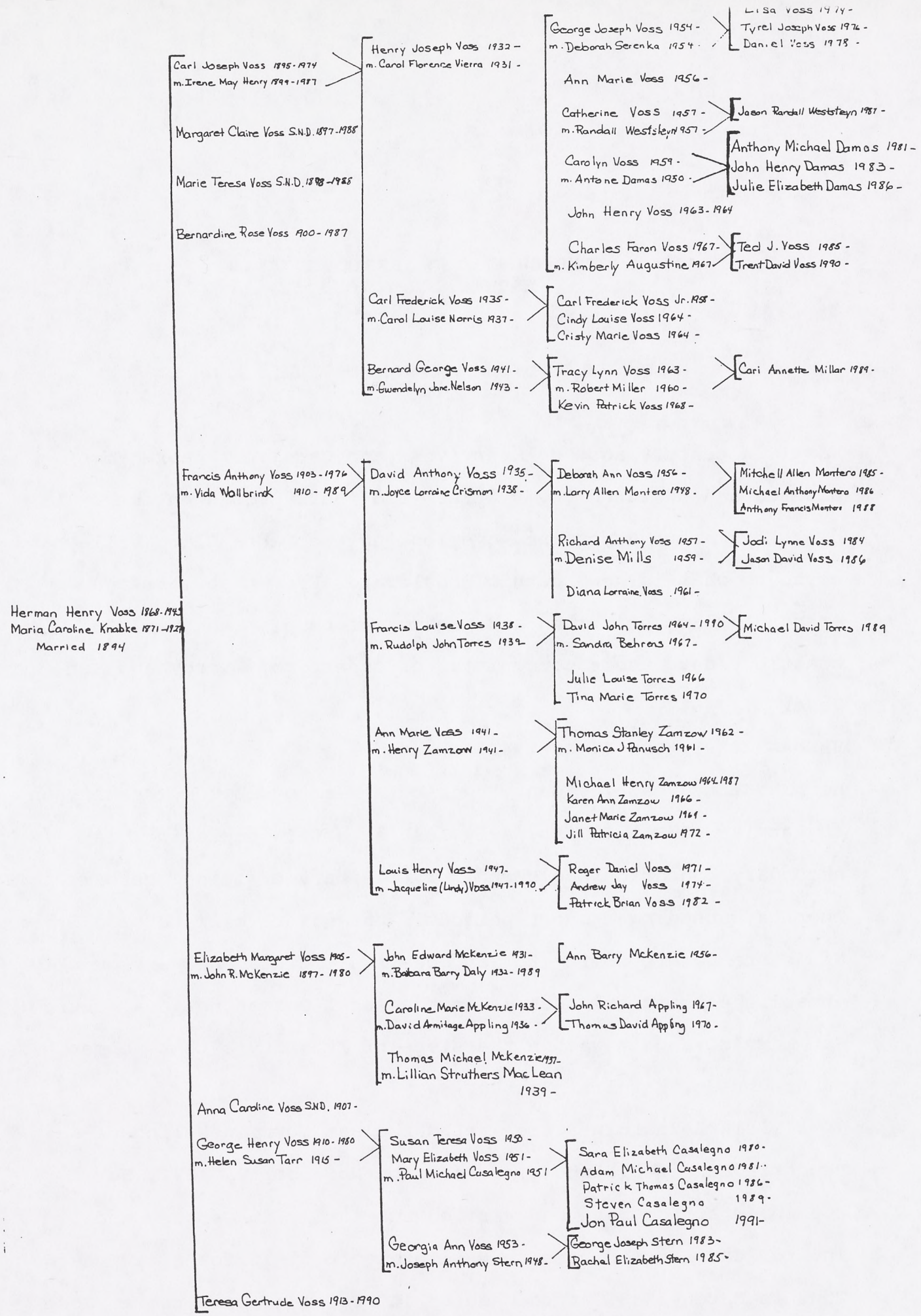
1991

Nearly a century ago, H. Henry Voss and Caroline Knabke Voss planted and nurtured their trees and family roots on the hillsides above Cupertino, overlooking the Santa Clara Valley and close to what-is-now Foothill Boulevard. From that marriage emerged a line of strong and productive people who have contributed to their communities of Cupertino, Gilroy and San Jose.

HERMAN HENRY VOSS (1868-1945)

Herman Henry Voss (H. Henry) was born near Osnabruck, Germany on August 18, 1868. In the early 1890's, after completing his secondary education and compulsory military training, he came to America, spending a short period in the severe climate of Minnesota before coming to San Jose, California. He very quickly established many friendships in the local German national church, St. Mary's, and it was on the steps of St. Mary's that he met his future bride, Caroline Knabke.

Marie Bernardine Caroline Knabke was born in Nelinghof-Neuenkirchen in Oldenburg, Germany on November 1, 1871. Her cousin, Mrs. Partman, had visited the family in Germany and invited Caroline to come to California to visit for a few years. Thus in March 1888, at the age of 16, Caroline came to San Jose


Herman Henry Voss 1868-1943
Maria Caroline Knabke 1871-1927
Married 1894
Carl Joseph Voss 1895-1974
m. Irene May Henry 1899-1987
Margaret Claire Voss S.N.D. 1897-1988
Marie Teresa Voss S.N.D. 1898-1988
Bernardine Rose Voss 1900-1987
Henry Joseph Voss 1932-
m. Carol Florence Vierra 1931-
George Joseph Voss 1954-
m. Deborah Serenka 1954-
Lisa Voss 1974-
Tyrel Joseph Voss 1976-
Daniel Voss 1978-
Ann Marie Voss 1956-
Catherine Voss 1957-
m. Randall Weststeyn 1957-
Jason Randall Weststeyn 1981-
Carolyn Voss 1959-
m. Antone Damas 1950-
Anthony Michael Damas 1981-
John Henry Damas 1983-
Julie Elizabeth Damas 1986-
John Henry Voss 1963-1964
Charles Faron Voss 1967-
m. Kimberly Augustine 1967
Ted J. Voss 1985-
Trent David Voss 1990-
Carl Frederick Voss 1935-
m. Carol Louise Norris 1937-
Carl Frederick Voss Jr. 1958-
Cindy Louise Voss 1964-
Cristy Marie Voss 1964-
Bernard George Voss 1941-
m. Gwendelyn Jane Nelson 1943-
Tracy Lynn Voss 1963-
m. Robert Miller 1960-
Cari Annette Millar 1989-
Kevin Patrick Voss 1968-
Francis Anthony Voss 1903-1976
m. Vida Wallbrink 1910-1989
David Anthony Voss 1935-
m. Joyce Lorraine Crismon 1938-
Deborah Ann Voss 1956-
m. Larry Allen Montero 1948-
Mitchell Allen Montero 1985-
Michael Anthony Montero 1986
Anthony Francis Montero 1988
Richard Anthony Voss 1957-
m. Denise Mills 1959-
Jodi Lynne Voss 1984
Jason David Voss 1986
Diana Lorraine Voss 1961-
Francis Louise Voss 1938-
m. Rudolph John Torres 1939-
David John Torres 1964-1990
m. Sandra Behrens 1967-
Michael David Torres 1989
Julie Louise Torres 1966
Tina Marie Torres 1970
Ann Marie Voss 1941-
m. Henry Zamzow 1941-
Thomas Stanley Zamzow 1962-
m. Monica J Panusch 1961-
Michael Henry Zamzow 1964-1987
Karen Ann Zamzow 1966-
Janet Marie Zamzow 1969-
Jill Patricia Zamzow 1972-
Louis Henry Voss 1947-
m. Jacqueline (Linda) Voss 1947-1990
Roger Daniel Voss 1971-
Andrew Jay Voss 1974-
Patrick Brian Voss 1982-
Elizabeth Margaret Voss 1905-
m. John R. McKenzie 1897-1980
John Edward McKenzie 1931-
m. Barbara Barry Daly 1932-1989
Ann Barry McKenzie 1956-
Caroline Marie McKenzie 1933-
m. David Armitage Appling 1936-
John Richard Appling 1967-
Thomas David Appling 1970-
Thomas Michael McKenzie 1937-
m. Lillian Struthers MacLean 1939-
Anna Caroline Voss S.N.D. 1907-
George Henry Voss 1910-1980
m. Helen Susan Tarr 1915-
Susan Teresa Voss 1950-
Mary Elizabeth Voss 1951-
m. Paul Michael Casalegno 1951
Sara Elizabeth Casalegno 1980-
Adam Michael Casalegno 1981-
Patrick Thomas Casalegno 1986-
Steven Casalegno 1989-
Jon Paul Casalegno 1991-
Georgia Ann Voss 1953-
m. Joseph Anthony Stern 1948-
George Joseph Stern 1983-
Rachel Elizabeth Stern 1985-
Teresa Gertrude Voss 1913-1990

and soon found employment and formed friendships in St. Mary's parish. In 1895, at the age of twenty-three, she became Herman Henry's bride.

H. Henry worked as foreman for Dr. MacDougal's properties, an interesting acreage on Regnart Road in Cupertino where he and Caroline lived in the early years of their marriage. While living there the fourth child, Rose Bernardine, 1900 was added to the trio of Carl Joseph, 1895, Margaret Claire, 1897 and Marie Teresa, 1898. Dr. MacDougal pronounced the new baby as " beautiful as a rose" - and the name stuck. Francis Anthony, 1903, Elizabeth Margaret, 1905, Anna Caroline, 1907, George Henry, 1910, and Teresa Gertrude, 1913, were later added to the family - a total of nine children.

But the young Voss family envisioned a place of their own, so along the western slopes, they bought the hilly sixteen acres. At that time H. Henry was living on the adjoining property rented from Walter Anthony.. H. Henry and Caroline set out orchards of prunes and apricots on this land while he also took on other jobs such as driving the water wagon to keep down the dust on the unpaved Stevens Creek and Permanente county roads.

In 1912 H. Henry was able to purchase from Charles Bocks, eleven acres of flat orchard land adjoining the hill land. At the foot of the hills and a fourth of a mile from the nearest county road, he built the simple home in which some members of the family lived continuously until 1963.

Always very civic-minded, H. Henry had obtained his U.S.

citizenship as soon as possible and took active part in education and development of the local public school for which he was a trustee for many years.

H. Henry was also one of the leaders in a group of Catholics working to establish a parish in Cupertino. Previously the area had been a mission of Santa Clara and the group had attended Sunday Mass at the Jesuit Villa Maria, up Stevens Creek. The area also had attracted many hard working people from Europe, especially from Italy and the Slavic areas, many of whom were Catholics who sought the best for their children. H. Henry and Mr. McCarthy were the first to pledge money to build a small church which was completed in 1907. George and Teresa were the only two Voss children baptized in that church. Once the parish was formed, H. Henry, who had a fine tenor voice, helped establish the choir. Some Voss family members sang with the choir until they moved from Cupertino in 1963.

H. Henry was an ardent reader who kept up on the world happenings and read current theological opinions in the best Catholic periodicals. To assure a firm foundation for their faith, he arranged to send each of this children to a Catholic school for the seventh and eighth grades and high school. This meant that the student walked a mile to get the interurban street car to go into San Jose. It was not until 1920 when Rose started teaching and there were six of the family in school that a Model T Ford was bought to take everyone in to San Jose. There were

many mix-ups waiting and good laughs in the intricacies of collecting the members from St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, Notre Dame High and San Jose State. Mother Caroline often worried when they were late or the weather bad, but somehow, everyone came through it.

Life on the farm was not easy. The roads were not paved until the 20's and electricity did not come into the home area until the 30's, so there were coal oil lamps to keep clean and wood stoves for cooking. The nearest public school for grades 1-6 was a one-room, one-teacher school a mile away. We all walked to school, meeting up with neighbor children along the way. With an enthusiastic and efficient teacher, learning was a joy and our achievement as great as in any other school. There were always many chores to be done before and after school and on weekends. Efficient management of the farm made the family almost self-sufficient. There were cows to milk and butter and cheese to make. There were eggs to gather and chickens to hatch and feed. Other animals had to be fed and their pens cleaned. Seasonally, a butcher was called in to slaughter the pig and fatted calf and then there was the smokehouse to tend in preparing the years' supply of hams, bacon, and sausages. Caroline was the organizer and doer of these marvels. She also kept a good sized vegetable garden going the year around with something always coming into season.

During the summer holidays, the whole family worked harvesting the fruit. Caroline had a way of working with the

younger children so that none wanted to be left out, making a game out of it or running little competitions with small awards for the winner. When outside help was needed, neighboring children often asked to work with the family because everyone had so much fun.

But all was not work. Sunday's found cousins, schoolmates, and neighbors over for games or hikes or horseback in the hills just beyond our place. There was no abundance of toys - no need of them. We played outdoor games like kick the can, run sheep run, prisoner's base, keep away, baseball, tap the finger, hoop driving, and H. Henry was often in the midst of the game. On rainy or very cold days we went inside to play Miller-Man's dice, various card games, improvise skits in the hay loft or tell stories. We had our own Indian or wild-west club, and to qualify for membership one had to be able to climb a certain large oak tree and slide off the end of branches, climb the pipe to the wind mill and slide down rope from the hay loft. The wholesome food, work and play helped to build strong healthy bodies. Vaccines and preventatives were not available then so measles, mumps, scarlet fever, chicken pox, and even small pox and diphtheria visited one or several of the children. Somehow, Caroline always knew what to do, isolating the patient and taking total charge. Sometimes she had two patients, each with a different disease. The marvel was that neither got the other's disease.

In 1918, the Florence Anthony property adjoining the 27

acres was purchased. Florence and her brother, Walter, lived on this property. The home was surrounded by several large oaks and fruit trees of many kinds - oranges, lemons, figs, persimmons, apples, olives, mulberry, etc. One of the oaks had a large hollow in the trunk. When harvesting the crop which came with the property, the workman stopped to explore the hollow in the oak tree and found a large jug of the best wine hidden there. Walter would not offend his prohibitionist sister, Florence, nor would he be denied his evening drink. The workman brought the jug to the dipper and dry-yard where the crew verified the fine quality of the beverage. H. Henry insisted the jug be returned to help Walter survive the problems of building and moving to his own property. This took years, so in the meantime, his arthritic spinster sister, Florence became friendly and trusting of the herd of young people who frequently passed by. Gradually she began to ask Tony to take her to the therapeutic mud baths at Alum Rock Park and this became a weekly act of mercy for Tony.

When H. Henry became too infirm to be in charge of the orchards, his son Francis Anthony Voss bought the section with the Florence Anthony home. The rest of the property passed into the hands of Rose and George. H. Henry died June 1945.

CARL JOSEPH VOSS (JOE) (1896-1974)

The oldest son, Carl Joseph (Joe), was born January 28, 1896. At 15 he felt duty-bound to leave school to assist his father and help support the family. He was a most reliable and

hard worker and his help was often sought by neighbors who knew his efficiency. Joe was drafted in W.W. I and spent a year and a half at Camp Lewis in Washington. The armistice was signed just when his unit was ready to ship out to France. After military duty he returned home and entered into all the family work and fun until asked to be maintenance man for St. Joseph's Seminary. Joe quickly developed a variety of skills which made him a fairly good mechanic as well as farmer. During these years Joe grew to admire one of Rose's schoolmates and close friend, Irene May Henry. He was the "convenient" brother and friend who often saw the two young teachers to functions. Eventually he bought some acreage near Sunnyvale on which he hoped to build and make a home. Irene's father, Lyna Henry, was disabled so Irene's mother had to support the family and Irene was her greatest help. As Joe moved into his thirties, he was anxious to marry but he'd think of no one but Irene. In 1931 Irene agreed to marry if Joe were willing to live at Irene's home so Irene could care for her parents as well. Irene had been teaching at Sunol where she was loved by her fellow teachers, as well as parents and students. She promised to return to Sunol school after marriage and when the children reached ages that her mother could manage, she did so.

The depression hit in the 30's and people who had mortgages on their property and depended upon the crop to make payments found themselves in a hopeless predicament. Prices for fruit fell below production cost. It was impossible to earn money by

outside jobs because there were no jobs. Thus Joe worked his acreage only to have to give it up to the bank. Irene was a wonderful support and encouraged him to keep on with other crops on rented land. He did so and as W.W. II came on he was able to rent more in the Berryessa area of San Jose and produce more and, so things picked up. In 1952 Joe bought a home and acreage in Berryessa while retaining the supervision of the rented areas.

Joseph and Irene had three sons, Henry, November 29, 1932, Carl Frederick, February 5, 1935, and Bernard George, February 21, 1941. As the boys grew they participated in the work of their father and enjoyed, too, the many weekends at the grandfather's home ranch in Cupertino. The boys went to Sunol and to St. Leo's and St. Patrick's schools in San Jose and then to Bellarmine High School. Irene was very involved in the school activities and in addition to being very active in many charitable organizations, served as president of each mother's guild in the schools her boys attended.

By the end of the '50's,things around Berryessa had changed drastically. Commercial companies were moving in, suburban sprawl was taking over as the Santa Clara Valley changes from a Valley of Hearts Delight bathed and perfumed by fragrant fruit tree blossoms in spring to the asphalt blacktop of parking places along the side of concrete buildings where a great variety of businesses were sprouting up. It was difficult to preserve and harvest a fruit crop under these circumstances. Yielding to "progress," Joe and his sons agreed

to sell or trade and take their agricultural interests to the San Joaquin Valley. They found a suitable trade in Ceres, near Modesto. Here Joe and Irene built a lovely home on Gilbert Road. Henry and Bernard found suitable places there also, while Carl and his family remained in Santa Clara Valley and continued to do well raising row crops on rented acreages in Berryessa and Coyote for the family business.

MARGARET CLAIRE VOSS (SISTER CLAIRE BERNARDINE, S.N.D.) (1897-1988)

Margaret Claire, born July 20, 1897, was the oldest daughter of H. Henry and Caroline. She was given great responsibility for the younger members and became a kind of second mother. Caroline once remarked that after the first couple of children it was not difficult to bring up the others, "the older ones trained them." Claire lived for some time with her Aunt Bernardine, Mrs. Henry Imwalle, to help her with their children and the store. At an early age after grammar school, Claire went to work to help support the family. Since she was a good companion, a good cook and a good housekeeper, she fitted in everywhere. When Marie Teresa joined the Sisters of Notre Dame at age seventeen, Claire began to consider just what she really wanted to do with her life. Three years later, Claire too, joined the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Claire's gifts as household organizer and manager were immediately recognized and even as a novice she went to the

orphanage at the O'Connor Home in San Jose to manage their kitchen and household activities. When College of Notre Dame and Boarding School from N. D. San Jose on Santa Clara Street moved to Belmont, Claire became responsible for all kitchen activities. This meant three meals a day for Sisters, Novices, workmen and boarding school to be served at Ralston Hall. Needless to say, she not only planned the menu but cooked and served most of it. It was Anna's good fortune to have her there when she too entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1925. Claire always had a way of dispelling loneliness or fatigue with a refreshing drink or a goodie. It was no secret and all the young novices experienced it.

After Belmont, Claire spent years at Santa Clara in the days of the old rambling buildings which served as a place for the infirm Sisters and the few orphans left when the O'Connor Home was converted into part of N.D.H.S. of San Jose. It was also the residence for the Sisters teaching in the elementary school in Santa Clara. Claire taught Sunday School in Mountain View on weekends. She loved the apostolic work but had to give it up when her hearing deteriorated. When the Novitiate was transferred from Belmont to Saratoga, Claire had charge of the kitchen. Many Sisters love to recall how she taught them as novices to make cowboy bread for breakfast or cook a full dinner for small or large groups.

As her physical energies diminished with age, Claire became more interested in sewing and took sewing classes at a local

college. She soon found herself a popular helper in the changes that occurred when religious dress was modernized. To the very end she contributed what she could. She died September 7, 1988 at age 91.

MARIA TERESA VOSS (SISTER AGNES JOSEPH, S.N.D.) (1898-1988)

Maria Teresa, the third child born December 12, 1898, joined the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1915 and continued her education to become a teacher. She was quite at home when in charge of young people and her ability to organize made her a natural administrator. She was teacher and principal at St. Joseph's School in San Jose, at Mission Dolores Boys School,and St. Mary's in San Jose. After she obtained her secondary credential, she taught at N.D.H.S. in San Jose, Alameda, and Marysville where she also served as Sister Superior in charge of the community. Her management abilities brought her to College of Notre Dame as treasurer for six years, after which she was in charge of N.D. schools at Mission Dolores. Her last heavy assignment was as accountant for N.D.H.S. in San Jose. Sister Marie retired to Notre Dame Villa in Saratoga when she felt her health care was a burden to the very busy household of active Sisters in San Jose. She died June 27, 1988 at Notre Dame Villa, Saratoga.

ROSE BERNARDINE VOSS (1900-1987)

Rose Bernardine Voss, the fourth child of H. Henry and Caroline born August 20, 1900, was always enthusiastic, generous

and eager to learn. She started school early but had no problem because her older sisters coached her. Because there was no one else for the grade she was supposed to be in at San Antonio School one year, the teacher allowed her to share with the grade above. Since Rose did as well as the others, she continued at that level and Rose graduated from elementary school at age twelve. Rose had grown very tall and she was too thin so the doctor recommended that she stay out of school for a year. When her mother asked her if she'd like to attend Notre Dame High School, Rose's response was a very firm "Yes", adding the note that she wanted to go to State Teacher's College (then called Normal School) and become a teacher.

Rose graduated from Notre Dame High School in San Jose in 1918 and after two years at Normal School was chosen by the trustees of Huyck School on Mt. Hamilton Road to teach the four upper grades. Miss Jeanette Hauser taught the first four grades. These two made a great team. When Mr. Patton, the trustee of the district, brought her the first pay check she remarked, "How wonderful to be paid for having so much fun." Both taught there until the district was pressured to form the Alum Rock Union School District. The population in the area grew quickly after W.W. II and several new schools had to be built which allowed each teacher to have just one grade but full classrooms. Rose often entertained her family and friends by the hour with the humorous anecdotes from her 36-year teaching career. Always enthusiastic, she seemed to enjoy the experiences all over again

each time she recalled them.

Rose lived at home in Cupertino and drove to San Jose and to her work. She chauffeured her younger brothers and sisters back and forth to the various schools they attended. It was a long day but Rose loved it.

Caroline, their remarkable mother, died suddenly September 20, 1927. It was a terrible blow to the entire family but it was especially hard on those who were home. Elizabeth, Rose, and Teresa shared the household work and tried to supplement the loss of a mother. It was especially difficult for Teresa who was just starting high school. Elizabeth married in 1930 and Rose carried on, making a home for her father, her brothers, and Teresa. Carl Joseph married Irene Henry. Francis Anthony married Vida Wollbrink. Teresa Gertrude graduated from N.D.H.S. and continued her education to become a registered nurse. George was left to help H. Henry on the farm.

Depression days were very hard on farmers. They worked hard and received little return. Rose often supplemented the home budget from her salary. When the economy began to recover, Rose and George formed a partnership and invested in a very productive apricot orchard on Parr Avenue near Campbell. It was a God-given answer to Rose's prayers for she saw George's frustration growing each year with his dilemma, knowing that his father needed him. For years, Rose spent her summers helping with the fruit harvest, managing the picking, cutting, etc. of the apricots.

After Rose and Teresa moved to Gilroy, Rose filled her retirement days with civic and religious services. She was first president and a founding member of a senior citizen group, worked actively for the parish, was a choir member and active in the Retired Teacher group. Rose died in 1987 in Gilroy.

FRANCIS ANTHONY VOSS (TONY) (1903-1976)

Francis Anthony was born June 3, 1903. He attended San Antonio School in Cupertino and St. Mary's in San Jose. His high school education was with the Marianist Brothers at St. Joseph's High School in San Jose. He formed many lasting friendships during high school and, with Leo Bihn, started a cannery to pay for their college education. This had to be abandoned later.

Tony worked on the family farm but soon reached out to do the neighbor's tractor work and managed things for Walter and Florence Anthony. Tony entered into civic and social life of the community and was very popular at fund raisers and local dances. At such gatherings he met his wife, Vida Louise Wollbrink who came from St. Louis to visit her uncle, a local contractor and builder. Tony and Vida were married in St. Louis in October 1930 and took up residence in Cupertino where they raised four children: David Anthony, December 18, 1935, Frances Louise, January 13,1938, Ann Marie, October 5,1941 and Louis Henry (Butch), May 28, 1947.

In the early '30's,there was a government movement to aid the county and state in building small water conservation dams.

Tony took advantage of this opportunity, invested in equipment and bid a number of jobs. This supplemented his agricultural business and made it possible for him to finance the building of a lovely home in 1945 on the portion of the property that had been Florence Anthony's home - near the huge oak and fine family orchard. This transfer of property to Tony, which bordered Stevens Creek Road and Alcalde Avenue, was agreed upon by his father and brothers. The Marianists now own the part of it where his home was.

As developers moved into Santa Clara Valley after W.W. II the orchards had to be removed. Tony had invented a device for uprooting trees and had many contracts for removing trees and putting in roads. In the early forties, Tony had also bought a bit of land up Stevens Creek which contained a large deposit of road building material particularly suited for driveway construction. When other contractors asked to buy supplies from him, Tony applied for and obtained the permits for a regular quarry. As other kinds of material were found on additional property bought later, the quarry grew and continues under the direction of Tony's eldest son, David, and David's son, Richard. David, who had driven tractors and bulldozers since his childhood, played a big part in developing the quarry together with his cousin, Louis Wollbrink, and his brothers-in-law, Henry Zamzow and Rudy Torres.

As subdivisions moved in around him, Tony sold the property on Alcalde Avenue and Stevens Creek Road and built on a knoll

overlooking the quarry operations. Beside the home, he built a recreation center for gatherings of relatives and friends on Sunday afternoon to play games. Tony loved to have lots of people around so the Sunday gatherings of all ages grew to be a shared affair with many families of friends, relatives and employees having countless pleasant hours in the recreation center while Tony barbecued for the group. David's family has continued this practice. Tony also opened the quarry ponds to the family for fishing and recreation. Even Sisters of Notre Dame enjoyed learning to fish in his stocked ponds. David has continued the fishing experience for handicapped persons with the cooperation of the local Lion's Club.

Tony died November 21, 1976. His wife, Vida, lived on in the home built on the knoll overlooking quarry operations and never lost her interest in the quarry right up until her death on March 1, 1989.

ELIZABETH MARGARET VOSS McKENZIE (1905-)

Elizabeth Margaret Voss, the sixth child in the H. Henry Voss family was born May 11, 1905 and attended grades one through six at San Antonio School. For the seventh and eighth grades, Elizabeth went to St. Mary's in San Jose and spent her high school days at Notre Dame High School, then located on Santa Clara Street in San Jose. She received her General Elementary Teachers Certificate from San Jose State Teachers College in 1925, and taught in the public elementary schools for the next

five years.

In August 1930, Elizabeth married John Rosario McKenzie of Mountain View, the oldest son of a pioneer Irish family. Three children were born to her marriage: John Edward was born October 13, 1931; Caroline Marie was born March 10, 1933, and Thomas Michael was born April 17, 1937.

Elizabeth returned to teaching in 1945, and taught for 21 more years until she retired in 1966 and moved to Gilroy, following her brother George and sisters Rose and Teresa to that area. Her husband, John, died February 3, 1980. Elizabeth continues to be active in senior citizens and Retired Teachers Association.

ANNA CAROLINE VOSS, S.N.D. (1907-)

Anna Caroline Voss was born August 10, 1907 in Cupertino. She was baptized at Villa Maria, the Jesuit villa up Stevens Creek. She attended San Antonio and Cupertino Union Schools, transferred to St. Mary's in San Jose for seventh and eighth grades and then continued on to Notre Dame High School in San Jose. Anna was always an outdoors girl and with her exposure to the learnings of her older sisters and brothers, she developed a great love of nature. From very early days in San Antonio School, Anna had always desired to be a teacher and joined the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1925 where she continued studies and earned an A.B. in chemistry and an M.A. in biology from Stanford University. Her first assignment was with eighth graders in Watsonville. She

loved it. Thereafter she was assigned to teach mathematics and science in high school. She taught at N.D.H.S. in San Jose for six years during the depression. After added experience in San Francisco and in Marysville during W.W. II, Anna transferred to Notre Dame Belmont in 1946. For a few years she taught on both high school and college levels and when the junior college was expanding into a four-year college, Anna was given the task of developing the Biology Department. The first four-year college accreditation gave very positive affirmation to the Biology Department where Anna remained until August 1966.

But Anna did not retire. She taught high school level at Star of the Sea High School in Honolulu for four years, then for six years at Bishop Conaty High School in inner city Los Angeles. She then returned to teach for two years at Notre Dame High School, Belmont. In the last few years of teaching Anna became progressively more deaf, which impeded effective communication and led her to withdraw from the classroom setting. Because she loved teaching, she sought to continue in a different manner in her retirement. Anna became a regular guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and shared her expertise to help train knowledgeable docents for Pt. Lobos Reserve. Gifted with relatively good health even in her 80's, she visits shut-ins and helps to bring them the comforts of their religion.

GEORGE HENRY VOSS (1910-1980)

George Henry, born March 29, 1910, was the youngest son and

the eighth child of H. Henry and Caroline. He attended San Antonio for his first grade, then went to Cupertino Union for three years and then to St. Joseph's in San Jose. He graduated from St. Joseph's High School at the head of his class but decided not to go to college. He intended to be an agriculturalist and was determined to do it by practical application. It was hard going for farmers in the late twenties and thirties. His father needed his help, particularly as the two older boys were going out on their own. When prunes were selling for 1 1/2 cents a pound, there was certainly no profit in prune orchards. George continued to work on the home ranch while doing other jobs in the neighborhood. In the early forties, Rose and George went into partnership, bought land on Parr Avenue in Campbell and, with good apricot crops made out well. George did not neglect the home place, but the settlement of the acreage to Tony and the condemnation of about 15 acres for a public school and recreation park left limited agricultural land.

George was a very active participant in our democratic way of life. He contributed much thought and time to the development of the City of Cupertino. Along with B. Leonard, Otis Forge and two other gentlemen, he saw the need to organize public utilities and they formed the Cupertino Sanitation District to arrange for a sewage system for Cupertino. Like his father, he was a leader in the building of the present St. Joseph's Catholic church and school and was always an active member of the Holy Name Society, supporting parish activities in every way possible.

George married Helen Tarr (1949) and they had three daughters: Susan, July 26, 1950, Mary Elizabeth, December 25, 1951, and Georgia Ann, September 23, 1953. When they realized that the Cupertino home place was no longer profitable as farm land, George sold and bought in the Gilroy area where his wife and daughters, Susan and Georgia, still live.

While living in Cupertino, George was chairperson for the local unit of the California Farm Bureau and president of the local Sunsweet cooperative. When he moved to Gilroy, he not only continued his Sunsweet and Farm Bureau activities but took on more responsibilities. He was elected to the local parish council and to the Board of Directors for Notre Dame High School, Salinas, where his daughters were enrolled. He also formed the Land Owner's Association and worked on the Water Quality Board for Gilroy. George died in his sleep in 1980.

TERESA GERTRUDE VOSS (1913-1990)

Teresa was born January 22, 1913, the ninth and last child of H. Henry and Caroline. She started school at Collins or Cupertino Union, but when the family Ford was purchased to take care of the transportation of the family's students, Teresa went to St. Mary's for a year and then to St. Joseph's elementary in San Jose for grades 4 through 8. The sudden death of her mother September 20, 1927 was a great shock to the 14 year old. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in San Jose in 1931 and completed her nurse's training at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose.

Her first position was on general duty in pediatrics at Merced General Hospital, then superintendent of communicable diseases, head nurse, and finally, superintendent of nurses. It was here that she met and worked with Helen Susan Tarr who became George's wife in 1949. In 1945 she resigned to be nearer home since H. Henry was ailing and she wished to be available. She became Dr. Lawrence's office nurse (1952-1967) and found great scope for her efficiency as well as her compassion. After Teresa and Rose moved to Gilroy, Teresa found commuting to San Jose too fatiguing so she resigned and took other jobs in Gilroy for a few years. When any member of the family was sick or had surgery, Teresa was always there. Neighbors and friends confided and sought her opinion. She was Dr. David Barton's office nurse for the last eleven years of her active nursing career retiring June 10, 1981.

George's family was always very close to Teresa and Rose. Helen and Teresa were as close as sisters. When in Cupertino on the original home place, they were more like one household and the children regarded Teresa especially as almost a second mother. Teresa died very suddenly of a massive stroke on March 18, 1990, while attending a Sunday matinee in San Jose with Anna, Bess and Helen.

Today, the once-dusty Voss Road from Foothill Boulevard is paved and lined with large contemporary homes which would dwarf the family homestead were it still standing----but none of those homes, of any size, would ever be able to match the large and successful lineage descending from H. Henry and Caroline Voss, as

planted and nurtured in Cupertino a century ago.

Edited by Carol Norris Voss, daughter-in-law of Carl Joseph Voss, wife of Carl F. Voss, and daughter of James S. Norris and Ruth Giacobbi Norris who met at their respective family summer homes on Stevens Creek in 1920 and married in 1933. The sites of those summer homes in the canyon today lie under the waters of the Stevens Creek Dam.

June 20, 1991

Zarko

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A Walk Down Memory Lane

From orchards to silicon chips, long-time resident has watched the city evolve

By Beverly Walz
Special to The Sun

Photograph by Hillary Schalit

Ann Zarko, Sunnyvale resident for more than eight decades, resides on South Mathilda Avenue, across from the Pyramid where friends will gather to commemorate the winter solstice.

Before Sunnyvale's "Pyramid" was installed in 1948 at the intersection of El Camino Real and Mathilda Avenue, stood the house of Ann and Pete Zarko. Today, their house is located across the street, on the 500 block of S. Mathilda Avenue.

The Zarkos are native Santa Clarans. Ann was born at the corner of Homestead and Stelling roads in 1910, on property her parents, Nick and Karle Lopin, bought when they came to this country from Croatia. Pete was born about where the Sunnyvale Public Safety building now stands, a year after the big quake of 1906. It was the Willson walnut-orchard property, and Pete's mother used to tell the story of little Pete out under the walnut trees during one of the following quakes. She told him to come inside, and he said, "No, I like to feel the rocking of the ground."

Ann attended Collins School in what is now the Cupertino DeOro building at Homestead Road and De Anza Boulevard. After fourth grade, she went to Cupertino Union Grammer School, which was located where the Cupertino Union School District office is today. She graduated in 1925 with Marty Mathieson, Miriam Calvert Stelling and Mathilda Mariani Souza, all longtime valley names.

Pete attended Sunnyvale School, then called Encinal, and graduated in 1922. Ann was a student at Fremont High School when it was still in the "Wigwam" during the construction of the present building.

Upon high school graduation, Pete wanted to join the U.S. Navy, but was underweight. Instead, he went to work at the Crystal Set Radio Shop on Sunnyvale Avenue, across from the Murphy estate. Ann attended the local beauty college and worked in Ann Aboud's shop upstairs in the Kirkish building on Murphy Avenue, just down the street from where Pete eventually established his garage.

Ann and Pete met through mutual friends on a date to an auto show. Cars continued to play an important part in their lives. They were married in 1935 and lived with Pete's mother for the first 10 years of their marriage in the house at the corner of McKinley and Waverly avenues, which is still there.

Ann started the first beauty shop in Cupertino, at the Crossroads, right where one of Apple Computer's buildings is today. She coiffed such celebrities as Cora Baggerly Older, wife of the *San Francisco Bulletin* editor, Fremont Older, and Mrs. Fontaine, mother of movie stars Joan Fontaine and Olivia de Havilland.

"We all had a wonderful time," Ann says. "And we would get together for lunch." Once, a beauty-supply distributor from San Francisco brought down cracked crab, and another time Mrs. Fontaine brought lunch.

Pete went to work at Redwines in Mountain View, where he swept floors and learned to be an auto mechanic. Then, he and his partner, Willard Frazer established the Frazer-Zarko garage on Murphy Avenue, between Washington and McKinley avenues, right around the corner from the old City Hall. In the same block was Schurra's Creamery, Sunnyvale Bakery and Raines Garage. Ann has a wonderful movie taken in 1953 of a pet parade that was held on this street showing these buildings, as well as the Methodist Church at Murphy and McKinley avenues. All these buildings are now the Town Center parking lot.

During World War II, Pete worked at Hendy Iron Works—now Westinghouse Electric Corp. Ann remembers the soldiers during this time, strolling with their girlfriends under the arbor made by Willson's walnut trees across Pastoria Avenue. The soldiers were stationed in Quonset huts in Washington Park and would conduct their drills on the streets around the park.

But what about the Pyramid site? Kirk Johnson first owned this 20-acre prune orchard on the northwest corner of El Camino Real and Mathilda Avenue, and he built a stucco bungalow-style home there in 1925. The Australian gum-wood paneling in the interior was especially selected by Mr. Whiteman of Sunnyvale's Whiteman's Lumber Company.

Next door to the Johnson house, on El Camino Real, stood Sodaro's fruit stand, named Aksarben, which is "Nebraska" spelled backwards; the Sodaros had come from that state.

Next to that was a Ford agency, and then Willson's big Victorian house on the northeast corner of El Camino Real and Pastoria Avenue, built in 1908. In 1945, Ann and Pete Zarko bought the Johnson house, and, in 1948, moved it, across Mathilda Avenue. There, their son, David, was born in 1949.

With the house gone, Pete and Ann built a garage on a portion of the corner, leasing the rest of the property to a Shell Oil Co. station. Pete continued his auto mechanic business at this location for more than 20 years, always considering himself a "Ford man."

Pete was a quiet person and was happiest when he was tinkering with cars. This led him into an extensive hobby of restoring antique cars, and in 1965, he and Ann built a garage on their property to accommodate this pastime. Pete continued his garage business on "the corner" until he retired in 1970, when he trained Louis Galliazzo to take over the garage and run it until 1977.

Around 1977, the Town Center idea was in motion, and some displaced businesses were looking for temporary quarters. The Wells Fargo Bank took over the Zarko garage building for its interim location. The Zarkos then had an opportunity to sell their property to several private businesses, but the city of Sunnyvale had condemned the site for open space. Consequently, the Zarkos sold the property to the city of Sunnyvale, and a park was established on the site. It is now an oasis of green grass and tall redwoods in the midst of the turmoil and traffic.

In 1985, the Sunnyvale Arts Commission selected the sculpture "El Paseo de los Suenos," or "The Gateway of Dreams," by Gene Flores, to be placed in the park. The sculpture, affectionately dubbed "The Pyramid," is an "homage to both early and modern settlers of Northern California," and the division between the two pieces of the sculpture represents the "gateway." Every year on June 21 and Dec. 22—the summer and winter solstices—people gather at sunrise to observe the sun streaming through this opening.

In 1988, Pete Zarko died, and his vintage cars formed the funeral procession. Ann has always been a volunteer in the community, including being a Girl Scout leader and chairman of the bazaar at St. Martin's Church for more than 20 years. She continues to work with this event as an adviser and creates many unique and beautiful items to sell.

Ann views the Pyramid across the street from her cozy home, with its neatly trimmed gardens and charming interior. She remembers the prune orchard that used to be there, and the public-safety building that followed, before the present City Hall and park.

As she receives a letter from the city of Sunnyvale, summoning her to a meeting regarding the Downtown Specific Plan, she wonders: "What do they have in mind now?"

Oct 2, 1939
NORTHWEST
CUPERTINO CORNERS
ICE MAN
BETH DODD
MONTI SIMPSON
HAZEL TOUSSEAU

"CUPERTINO CORNERS" Oct. 1939
NORTHWEST

L to R MONTI SIMPSON (RESTAURANT)
MAUDE REGAN
PERMANENTE WORKER
BETH DODD (BEAUTY OPERATOR)
FRONT ANN ZARKO (BEAUTY OPERATOR-OWNER)
BOB TROGDEN (CUPERTINO STORE-CLERK GROCERY SECTION)

HOT LUNCH 35¢

1941 NEW ANN ZARKO
BEAUTY SHOP
SOUTH WEST CUPERTINO
CORNERS
MARY CAMARDA PENNINGTON
CUPERTINO STATION +
STORE IN BACKGROUND

1941 IN FRONT OF
ANN ZARKO BEAUTY SHOP
SOUTH WEST CORNER
BETH DODD - DELLA MORSE
NORTH EAST - CUPERTINO
STORE
SOUTH EAST - ENOS BAR
= SHADY CORNERS "

1941

"CUPERTINO CORNERS" Oct. 1938
NORTH WEST
L TO R MONTI SIMPSON (RESTAURANT)
GEORGE (MILKMAN)
JEWEL SIMPSON (RESTAURANT)
ANN ZARKO (BEAUTY SHOP - OWNER)
HAMLETT (BARBER)
BETH DODD (BEAUTY OPERATOR)
BOB TROGDEN (CUPERTINO STORE CLERK)